

**2016 ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER PARENT  
ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA  
43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 26-28, 2016**

*Soaring like an Eagle, Fulfilling a Child's Dream*



**JEKYLL ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER  
75 NORTH BEACHVIEW DRIVE  
JEKYLL ISLAND, GEORGIA 31527**

## From the President

*Welcome Friends and Colleagues,*

*We, the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia's (AFPAG) Board of Directors, would like to welcome you to our 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Education Conference. We deem it a privilege and an honor to have an active role in shaping the future of Adoptive and Foster Parents and children in the State of Georgia through advocacy, education, and networking with parents, DFCS staff, local agencies, and other professionals.*

*Our theme is "Soaring like an Eagle, Fulfilling a Child's Dream." All children dream of having a family that can keep them safe, make them feel worthwhile, love them, provide them with a stable home, and most of all, a family that they can call their own.*

*This year we will hold our election for the Executive Vice President, Secretary, and Region Vice Presidents that are in ODD Regions. Please cast your ballots and elect the people of your choice. Remember the people you elect will be the people that represent you. Again, AFPAG values you! We want to hear your opinions.*

*We hope you will enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Jekyll Island. The conference committee has worked very hard to make this 43<sup>rd</sup> conference a wonderful event for you. We invite you to share your experience with your peers during the breaks, at informal group discussions, and anytime you can.*

*Please let someone you meet know that you are very proud of the care you give to Georgia's children.*

### **OUR MISSION**

*To empower, support, and advocate for foster and adoptive families who enrich the quality of life for Georgia's children.*

### **OUR GOALS:**

- ✓ *To provide ongoing and meaningful support for foster and adoptive families;*
- ✓ *To advocate for change to protect the rights and welfare of foster and adoptive families;*
- ✓ *To promote cultural awareness;*
- ✓ *To encourage community awareness and education through collaboration and partnership with other child welfare and community organizations;*
- ✓ *To develop and provide appropriate training for foster and adoptive families as well as local and state DFCS staff.*

*Thanking you in advance for your support! See you at the conference.*

*Sincerely Yours,*

*Mr. Verdell Daniels*

*Mr. Verdell Daniels*

*President*

# Hotel Information

*You will need to make your own hotel reservations. Tell them you are with the Adoptive/Foster Parent Association of Georgia, (AFPAQ) Conference, February 26- 28, 2016.*

*All hotel reservations must be made by the cut-off date listed by the hotel below to ensure you get the conference rate.*

---

Villas By The Sea Phone 1-800-841-6262 Cut -off Date: Jan 26, 2016

---

Mini-Villa/Studio	\$104.00
One Bedroom Villa	\$127.00
Two Bedroom Villa	\$144.00
Three Bedroom Villa	\$164.00

---

Hampton Inn and Suites Phone 1-912-635-3733 Cut- off Date: Jan 26, 2016

---

Standard Room (Two Queen Beds or one King Bed).	\$139.00
Studio Suite	\$159.00

---

Days Inn and Suites Phone 1-912-635-9800 Cut- off Date: Jan 26, 2016

---

Island Side Room	\$105.00
Ocean Side Room	\$115.00

---

Holiday Inn and Suites Phone 1-912-635-2211 Cut-off Date: Jan. 26, 2016

---

Island View	\$99.00
Ocean View	\$119.00
Oversize Ocean Front	\$149.00
Ocean Front Suite	\$189.00

**Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia  
2016 Annual Education Conference  
February 26 – 28, 2016  
Jekyll Island, Georgia**

**Thursday February 25, 2016**

12: 00 p.m. to 2: 00 p.m.	AFPAG Board Meeting
12: 00 p.m. to 6: 00 p.m.	Exhibit Set Up
3: 00 p.m. to 6: 00 p.m.	Early registration

**Friday February 26, 2016**

7: 00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Registration
7: 00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
9: 00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremony
10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.	BREAK
10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	Breakout workshop Session (A)
12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.	Lunch (on your own)
1:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.	General Session #1
3:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	BREAK
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Breakout workshop Session (B)
5:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.	BREAK
5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Annual AFPAG Business Meeting

**Saturday February 27, 2016**

7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Registration on – Site
7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	General Session #2
10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.	BREAK
10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	Breakout Workshop Session (C)
12:15 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.	BREAK
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Awards Luncheon
2:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.	BREAK
2:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.	Breakout Workshop Session (D)

**Sunday February 28, 2016**

8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.	Non-Denominational Worship Services
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Breakout Workshop Session (E)
10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.	BREAK
10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.	Closing Remarks, Grand Prize Drawing, and Silent Auction

Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia  
2016 Conference Registration Sheet

Jekyll Island, Georgia

PLEASE USE SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH PERSON REGISTERING

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK ONE

Adoptive Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Foster Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ DFCS Staff: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Friday's Workshop Session (A)

Workshop - 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Friday's Workshop Session (B)

Workshop - 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday's Workshop Session (C)

Workshop - 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday's Workshop Session (D)

Workshop - 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday's Workshop Session (E)

Workshop - 1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST ATTEND ALL GENERAL SESSIONS, OPENING CEREMONY, AND AWARDS LUNCHEON**

**Registration Fee: \$125.00 per participant: Only checks and money orders will be accepted.**

**Extra tickets for the Awards Luncheon: \$35.00.**

**On-site registration fee: \$150.00, No personal checks will be accepted.**

**All return checks will be charged \$35.00 No refund will be given after FEB 1, 2016**

**Make check payable to AFPAG Conference**

**Mail Check to AFPAG CONFERENCE: ATTENTION: Eunice Daniels**

**101 Windsor Road  
Savannah, GA 31419**

## **2016 AFPAG Conference Information**

Please choose two selections for each workshop session and record the workshop number in the order you prefer for each workshop selected. Be sure to record your first choice and then your second choice. Remember to register early for the best selections of workshops as classes are size limited.

EXAMPLE

**Workshop: 1<sup>st</sup> Choice: A-1      Workshop: 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice A-6**

### **IF YOU ATTEND ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:**

Opening session, General session, Awards Luncheon, Closing session, and your assigned workshops, you will receive a total of 15 credit hours of training.

Registration includes: Registration fee, workshop materials, Goodie Bag, awards luncheon ticket, and a one year membership to AFPAG.

**All extra tickets for the awards luncheon are \$35.00.**

You will receive confirmation of your registration by e-mail or phone.

### **NO CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED IN ANY CONFERENCE SESSIONS OR WORKSHOPS!**

This conference provides a great opportunity to learn and address issues such as childcare, new policy changes, and working in true partnership with those agencies that support us as we care for the needs of the children in DFCS custody. The Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia will not provide childcare for any children accompanying you to the conference. Please contact your local DFCS caseworker to assist you arranging suitable respite care for your children.

### **OTHER HELPFUL TIPS**

- ✓ Complete the sign in sheet during each workshop.
- ✓ Make sure you have the workshop monitor stamp the back of your certificate to get credit for your workshop.
- ✓ Please attend only the workshops you were assigned because space is limited.
- ✓ Complete the workshop evaluation sheet and make sure to give it to the workshop monitor.
- ✓ There will be a table with the reimbursement forms. Please take one. There will be a DFCS staff member at the table to assist you on how to complete the form.
- ✓ Please stop by our vendor tables and the DFCS tables. They are here to help you.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to speak with someone at the help desk.

**2016 AFPAG Conference at a Glance:**

**Thursday February 25, 2016**

12:00 to 2:00 p.m.                      AFPAG Board Meeting  
12:00 to 6:00 p.m.                      Exhibits & Vendors Set-up  
3:00 to 6:00 p.m.                      Early Registration

**Friday February 26, 2016**

7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.                      Registration (pre-registered and on-site registration)  
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.                      Opening Ceremony: Keynote Speaker Debra Ross (“I believe I Can Fly”)  
10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.                      Break

**10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.                      Breakout Workshops (A)**

- A-1.    Complex Trauma Informed Approached to Children in Foster Care.
- A-2.    A Primer on How the Legal Side of the Child Welfare System Works.
- A-3.    Let’s Talk Adoption.
- A-4.    The Right to Be Heard.
- A-5.    How to Meet and Advocate for your Foster Child’s Healthcare Needs.
- A-6.    Educational Rights for Children in Foster Care.

**12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Lunch on Your Own.**  
(Concession stands in the convention center, and there are several restaurants on the Island)

1:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.                      General Session #1: Presenter Mrs. Dianna Kelly (Prudent Parenting.)

3:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.                      Break

**3:30 to 5:00 p.m.                      Breakout Workshops (B).**

- B-1.    Preventing Adoption Disruptions: How to Prepare for and Cope with Trauma Issues and your Adoptive Child
- B-2.    What All Foster and Adoptive Parents Should Know About the Independent Living Program
- B-3.    Teach Me How to Love You
- B-4.    Encouraging Healthy Behaviors in the Foster Home
- B-5.    Adoption Subsidy and Federal Tax Credit
- B-6.    Invisible Invader: The Impact of Substance Abuse on Children

5:10 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.                      AFPAG’s Annual Business Meeting

**Saturday February 27, 2016**

**9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.                   General Session #2: Presenters: Judy Nino and Gloria Washington  
Overview of Child Care Services through Child Care and Parents  
Services, (CAPS).**

**10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Break**

**10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.                   Breakout Workshops (C).**

- C-1. Case Law Update for Foster and Adoptive Children**
- C-2. Refilling the Bucket**
- C-3. Post Adoption Services**
- C-4. Helping Children Overcome Grief and Loss**
- C-5. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome**
- C-6. Dos and Don'ts of Foster Care Parenting**

**12:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Break**

**12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Awards Luncheon: Speakers Mrs. Ashley Willcott and Dr. Betsy Brockman**

**2:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Break**

**2:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.                   Breakout Workshop (D)**

- D-1. Understanding Teens – Parents are you Jiggy or Thirty?**
- D-2. The Educational Programming Assessment and Consultation (EPAC)**
- D-3. Partnership Parenting- Benefits to Birth Parents, Foster Parents, and Children**
- D-4. Empowerment: Here are My Rights**
- D-5. Keeping My Sanity and Keep on Fostering**
- D-6. Georgia's 360 Families: Amerigroup.**

**Sunday February 28, 2016**

**8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Non- Denominational Service**

**9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.                   Breakout Workshops (E).**

- E-1. ADHD Nuts and Bolts**
- E-2. Human Trafficking and Foster Children**
- E-3. A Successful Association- A Very Needed Tool for Foster and Adoptive Parents**
- E-4. Advocacy 101**
- E-5. Safe Sleep – SIDS**
- E-6. Understanding Hoarding and Cluttering Behaviors**

**10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Break**

**10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Closing Session: Remarks, Grand Prize Drawing, Silent Auction Winners**



**Workshops Description Session A**  
**Friday February 26, 2016**  
**10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

**A – 1. COMPLEX TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH TO CHILDREN FOSTER CARE:** The term complex trauma describes the dual problem of children’s exposure to multiple traumatic events and the impact of this exposure on immediate and long-term outcomes. Typically, complex trauma exposure results when a child is abused or neglected, but it can also be caused by other kinds of events such as witnessing domestic violence, ethnic cleansing, or war. Many children involved in the child welfare system have experienced complex trauma. In this workshop, you will learn about the current science and how the child welfare system is shifting in response to this new information and how it can impact your foster or adoptive child. **Presenters: Judge Michael Key and Attorney Michelle Barclay**

**A – 2. A PRIMER OF HOW THE LEGAL SIDE OF THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM WORKS:** Many foster and adoptive parents express frustration with the legal side of the child welfare system. This workshop will provide a very basic, broad overview of the current laws and structure of the legal side of the child welfare system. There are many procedural and constitutional rights of all parties which the courts have to consider and manage. **Presenter: Attorney Jerry Bruce**

**A – 3. LET’S TALK ADOPTION:** Whether you are a prospective adoptive parent, a resource parent, or a partnership parent, you want to attend this workshop if you have children placed in your home who you desire to adopt. Participants attending this workshop will gain knowledge regarding the requirements and the process to adopt children from Georgia’s Child Welfare System. The primary focus will be on laws governing adoption policy in Georgia and Georgia’s best practice supported by adoption policy. **Presenter: Ms. Deborah Burrus**

**A – 4. THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD:** This workshop will teach foster and adoptive parents about their rights to be heard in juvenile court, about the court system, and the legal part of the child welfare system. This will include a candid discussion on how to be an effective witness and more. **Presenter: Judge Britt Hammond.**

**A – 5. HOW TO MEET AND ADVOCATE FOR YOUR FOSTER CHILD’S HEALTHCARE NEEDS:** Learn how you can ensure that your foster and adopted child’s healthcare needs are met with healthcare providers and care management organizations. **Presenter: Attorney Tom Rawlings**

**A – 6. EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE:** Children in foster care consistently experience some of the lowest educational outcome of all youth. Research demonstrates that every time a child changes schools, he or she loses up to 6 months of his or her education, and many foster youth may change schools 10-15 times throughout his or her education. Furthermore, many foster children suffer from the emotional ramifications of the incidents that led to their placement in foster care, and this can lead to acting out and avoidance of school. Come learn how you can be a good educational advocate for your foster or adoptive child. **Presenter: Attorney Craig Goodmark.**

## Workshop Description Session B

Friday February 26, 2016

3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**B – 1. PREVENTING ADOPTION DISRUPTIONS: HOW TO PREPARE FOR AND COPE WITH TRAUMA ISSUES AND YOUR ADOPTIVE CHILD:** Adoptive children are routinely told that when they are adopted they have found their “Forever Families”. Yet increasingly, adoptive parents are taking their children to DFCS and saying that they cannot continue to parent their adoptive children. This situation re-traumatizes children who have already been traumatized by parental abuse and neglect, by years in foster care, and by termination of parental rights. Learn what steps you can take to prepare for a lifelong relationship with a child adopted out of foster care, and how to prevent the disruption of an adoptive placement. Presenters: ***Attorney Stephany Zaci, and Psychologist Bonnie Lockwood***

**B – 2. WHAT ALL FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM:** The Independent Living Program is a service that is available to all youth that are 14 years of age or older who are in foster care and who meet the requirement of being in care for at least six month prior to being adopted. ILP provides workshops and financial assistance in numerous ways for the youth that are eligible up to age 21, and it can be extended if they are in post-secondary education. All foster and adoptive parents who have or plan to have teenagers in their home will benefit having the knowledge of ILP services by attending this workshop. ***Presenter: Mrs. Teresa Reese***

**B – 3. TEACH ME HOW TO LOVE YOU:** Researchers have stated that happy couples make happy parents who raise happy, well-adjusted children. “Teach Me How to Love You” is a fun and highly interactive workshop that teaches parents how to get their needs met so they can meet the needs of their children in an effective way. This workshop will help individuals identify negative habits and old behaviors that may be preventing them from getting their needs met. This workshop will also teach parents how to identify, evaluate, and effectively communicate their needs. ***Presenter: Dr. Natasha LaMarr***

**B – 4. ENCOURAGING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS IN THE FOSTER HOME:** Due to increasing needs of children in care, retention of our seasoned and quality foster parents is becoming more and more challenging. Unfortunately, the combination of the two is resulting in involuntary foster home closures. This workshop will review the difference between punishment and discipline as well as discuss successful strategies for encouraging and managing healthy behaviors. ***Presenter: Mr. Steven Turner***

**B – 5. ADOPTION SUBSIDY AND FEDERAL TAX CREDIT:** In this session you will learn the basics of adoption assistance for children adopted from foster care. Topics include eligibility, benefits, taxes, and more. Participants will receive state specific information and will come away with concrete information and strategies to better advocate for foster and adoptive children with special needs. There will also be an overview of the Federal Adoption Tax Credit. ***Presenter: Josh Kroll***

**B – 6. INVISIBLE INVADER – THE IMPACT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE ON CHILDREN:** Parental substance abuse has been identified as one of the five key factors that predict child neglect or maltreatment. This workshop will explore the emotional, behavioral, and physical impact parental drug and/or alcohol abuse has on a child across his or her development (prenatal to early adulthood). Participants will learn specific skills to assist foster and adoptive children in overcoming social, academic, emotional, and behavioral challenges related to their history of exposure to substance abuse in the home. We will also discuss strategies to help a child to reduce risk and break the cycle of abuse to promote brighter futures. ***Presenter: Renee Sylvester***

**Workshop Description Session C**  
**Saturday February 27, 2016**  
**10:45 to 12:15**

**C – 1. CASE LAW UPDATE FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE CHILDREN:** Come hear about recent appellate law in Georgia and even nationally that might impact you, your child or your case, or just come to learn. This class will be structured as a lecture with plenty of room for discussion. **Presenter: Judge William Bartles**

**C – 2. REFILLING THE BUCKET:** Many parents who care for foster and adoptive children can suffer from emotional and physical exhaustion and are often unaware of it. This erodes the quality of relationship in their family, marital, and social system. This workshop will focus on strategies to replenish your bucket so you can continue to effectively offer healing to the children you care for. **Presenter: Mrs. Debra Ross**

**C – 3. POST ADOPTION SERVICES:** Once a family adopts, finalized adoption does not simply end after the court hearing. There comes a time when families need Post Adoption Services to assist with their needs long after an adoption has finalized. Families need support services to help with the demands of parenting special needs children. This workshop will focus on the Post-Adoption Services offered through the Adoption Assistance program in Georgia. Topics will include coverage on all available Post-Adoption Services. In addition to Post-Adoption Services through DFCS, there will also be a presentation from Systems Methods, Inc. (SMI), the financial system vendor and partner to Georgia DFCS. **Presenters: Mr. Adrian Owens and Mrs. Leah Waters**

**C – 4. HELPING CHILDREN OVERCOME GRIEF AND LOSS:** Upon entering foster care, all foster children experience a sense of loss related to separation from their natural environment, primary caretakers, extended by family members, friends, and comfort object. The grieving process can be compounded by circumstances such as separation from siblings, fractured family relationship, death, or termination of parental rights. Learn about the impact on a child's emotional and psychological well-being. **Presenter: Ms. Regina Fraser**

**C – 5. FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME:** Come learn what (FAS) Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is. It is a group of signs and symptoms that appear together and indicate a certain condition. The signs and symptoms are birth defects that results from women's use of alcohol during her pregnancy. Participants will learn the signs, symptoms, and where to seek help. **Presenter: Mrs. Marjorie Jones.**

**C – 6. DOS AND DON'TS OF FOSTER CARE PARENTING:** The how to guide. This presentation will cover, the dos and don'ts, an easy guide to prevent allegations, questions forum: Everything you wanted to know, didn't know who/how to ask, and the Foster Parents Bill of Rights and Grievance Procedure. **Presenters: Misty Kirkland Nash and Eltina H. Baker.**

**Workshop Descriptions Session D**  
**Saturday February 27, 2016**  
**2:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.**

**D – 1. UNDERSTANDING TEENS- PARENTS ARE YOU JIGGY OR THIRTY?:** This workshop will help parents of teenagers identify changes in the social norms from their teen years to the present, discuss expectations and boundaries appropriate for teens, learn how to modify, when necessary, their communication style, and explore positive behavioral strategies. **Presenter: Brenda Gillespie**

**D – 2. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING ASSESSMENT AND CONSULTATION (EPAC):** This presentation will provide participants with information on providing academic support services focusing on improving the educational outcome and academic achievement of children services and youth who are currently in the custody of the Georgia DFCS. The primary goal of E.P.A.C. is to improve reading and mathematics abilities of children in the custody of DFCS who range from age 5 to 17 years. **Presenters: Jennifer Williams, Autumn Shepard, and Victoria Green.**

**D – 3. PARTNERSHIP PARENTING- BENEFITS TO BIRTH PARENTS, FOSTER PARENTS AND CHILDREN:** This workshop explores the concept of the foster parent as a coach, mentor, model, and team builder. The presentation explores the profound effect of partnership parenting on the child, the birth family, the foster family, and the community as a whole. **Presenter: Rebecca Davidson.**

**D – 4. EMPOWERMENT: HERE ARE MY RIGHTS:** This workshop was created by youth who have experience in the foster care system. This training is to help youth and adults support some of the current laws and policies that will help youth transition in and out of care. **Presenter: Mr. Anthony Stover**

**D – 5. KEEPING MY SANITY AND KEEP ON FOSTER:** Retention of our seasoned and quality foster home is becoming more and more challenging. Foster parenting can be a tough job and very discouraging at times. Stress, anger, and challenges are constantly coming into foster parents' everyday lives giving that feeling of "Why should we continue?". This workshop will recall the reason parents began fostering, steps of encouragement, possible solutions support with reasons and motivation to continue, and work through problems without losing sanity. **Presenter: Betty Hasting.**

**D – 6. GEORGIA'S 360 FAMILIES – AMERIGROUP:** Georgia's Child Welfare system underwent a major change with the transition of children in foster care and adoption assistance to Amerigroup for their health care needs. Learn the facts and get key information on this program. **Presenter: Mr. Ronald Dunham.**

**Workshops Description Session E**  
**Sunday February 28, 2016**  
**9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

**E – 1. ADHD NUTS AND BOLTS:** While all of us have heard of a generalized idea of what it is and what to look for, when we are face to face with it, we often are left feeling overwhelmed and confused. We want to provide the best care, but we don't even know what questions to ask. This presentation will focus on understanding ADHD, what the child is experiencing, treatment options, strategies for dealing with the behavior, and helping children learn coping strategies. **Presenters: Chris and Jen Cannington.**

**E – 2. HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FOSTER CHILDREN:** Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States. It has occurred in all 50 states, and foster children are particularly vulnerable. This presentation will increase your knowledge on what human trafficking really is. Participants will learn tactics often used by traffickers to lure victims. Participants will also learn strategies to help keep children from becoming victim. **Presenter: Dr. Karen Lambie.**

**E – 3. A SUCCESSFUL ASSOCIATION- A VERY NEEDED TOOL FOR FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS:** One of the most helpful, encouraging, and informative tools for foster parents today is to be a part of a successful association. Associations are struggling particularly in the local areas with the busy life-styles that foster parents experience today. This workshop brings thoughts of some possible benefits, knowledge, fundraising, ideas, networking, and learning that working together has great possibilities in many areas. A successful association will also give foster children a much better opportunity for a better life. **Presenter: Betty Hasting.**

**E – 4. ADVOCACY 101:** In this workshop participants will develop the tools for advocating for all children. This workshop will start with problem identification and then move on to laws or rules that cover the problem and how to find a solution. **Presenter: Mr. Josh Kroll.**

**E – 5. SAFE SLEEP- SIDS:** Are you creating a safe sleep environment for baby? Do you know the difference between SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) and suffocation/asphyxia? What is the safest sleeping position for infants under one year of age? Bare is best for your baby's sleep environment! Is your baby safe in his/her "play yard"? What are the common issues with bed sharing? Learn the A,B, and Cs of safe sleep. Join Dana Moore and Jeanne Griffin as they present ways to reduce the risk of SIDS and other sleep-related causes of infant death. **Presenters: Dana Moore and Jeanne Griffin**

**E – 6. UNDERSTANDING HOARDING AND CLUTTERING BEHAVIORS:** When is a mess more than just a mess? This workshop is designed to help participants understand hoarding and cluttering behaviors. Foster parents will also be able to create specific strategies to support healthy change with themselves and/or foster children who may be demonstrating hoarding or cluttering behavior. **Presenter Dr. Natasha LaMarr**

## Adoptive Parent of the Year Application

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph.: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

### References for Verification:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**What makes this Adoptive Parent/Family the best in Georgia: (Use a separate sheet of paper if needed).**

---

---

---

---

---

**Is the nominee a member of any civic organization or club?**

---

---

---

---

The Nominee must be in good standing with AFPAG and their local agency. All applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2016. The winner will be selected by the AFPAG Awards Committee. The winner must attend the Awards Luncheon. Please mail your application to:

AFPAG Conference  
101 Windsor Road  
Savannah, GA 31419

## Foster Parent of the Year Application

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

### References for Verification:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What makes this Foster Parent/Family the best in Georgia? (Use a separate sheet of paper if needed)

---

---

---

---

---

Is the nominee a member of any civic organization or club?

---

---

---

---

The Nominee must be in good standing with AFPAG and their local agency. All applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2016. The winner will be selected by the AFPAG Awards Committee. The winner must attend the Awards Luncheon. Please mail your application to:  
AFPAG Conference

101 Windsor Road  
Savannah, GA 31349

### Caseworker of the Year Application

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph.: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

#### References for Verification:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What makes this person the BEST caseworker in Georgia?: (Use a separate sheet of paper if needed).

---

---

---

---

---

Is the Nominee a member of any civic organization or club?

---

---

---

---

All application must be postmarked by February 1, 2016. The winner will be selected by the AFPAG Awards Committee. The winner must attend the Awards Luncheon. Please mail your application to:  
AFPAG Conference  
101 Windsor Road



Savannah, GA 31419

### Association of Excellence Award Application

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph.: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

#### References for Verification:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

What makes this Local Association the BEST in Georgia: (Use a Separate Sheet of paper if needed).

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

All Applications must be postmarked by February 1, 2016. The winner will be selected by the AFPAG Awards Committee. The winner must have a representative at the Awards Luncheon. Please mail your application to:

AFPAG Conference  
101 Windsor Road  
Savannah, GA 31419

## Speakers' Biographies

**Eltinia H. Baker**: Ms. Baker has been with the Georgia Department of Human Service (DFCS) for seven years. All seven years of experience is in Resource Development. She holds a B.S. Degree in Human Services from Valdosta State University. She is a trainer by profession and at heart. Her motto is "DO WHAT YOU CAN WITH WHAT YOU HAVE".

**Michelle Barclay, Esquire**: Michelle Barclay has been the staff to the Supreme Court of Georgia's Commission on Justice for Children's since 1996. Before becoming a lawyer, she was a nurse, specializing in ICU and trauma care at both Grady and Emory Hospitals. Her degrees include a Juris Doctor from Emory University School of Law. She is also co-founder (along with her husband Andrew Barclay) of the Barton Child Law and Policy Center at Emory University.

**Judge William Bartles**: Judge Bartles the Juvenile Court Judge of Henry County. He received his Law Degree from the University of Georgia.

**Estelline Beamon, BSW, MPA**: Estelline Beamon is a State of Georgia Independent Living Specialist in Region 12 of the Division of Family and Children Services. Ms. Beamon has worked at the Division with foster care youth transitioning to adulthood since 2003. Prior to working with DFCS, Ms. Beamon worked as the program Specialist/Tutor Coordinator serving youth in the Upward Bound/TRIO Program at State University preparing youth to successfully matriculate and graduate from institution of postsecondary learning. Ms. Beamon does workshops and presentations on a variety of topics promoting independent living, healthy marriage, and domestic violence prevention. She also serves as a member of the Youth Council of the Coastal Workforce investment Board (CWIB) in southeast Georgia. Ms. Beamon is a graduate of Savannah State University.

**Dr. Betsy Brockman**: Principal Brockman attended Atlanta Public Schools. She holds her Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Studies and Urban Education from Emory University. Principal Brockman earned both her Educational Specialist degree and Masters Degree from the University of Georgia. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education from Georgia Southern University. Dr. Brockman has been a foster parent and has adopted five children from the Georgia foster care system.

**Jerry Bruce, Esquire**: Jerry Bruce has been a parent attorney, Guardian ad Litem, delinquency and adult prosecutor, delinquency and adult defender, Special Assistant Attorney General representing DFCS, and a juvenile court judge – essentially every job an attorney can do in Georgia's Juvenile Court. He is currently involved in child welfare law and policy work for state agencies, educational institutions, and regularly presents and trains on child welfare issues.

**Deborah Burrus:** Deborah Burrus is the DFCS Permanency Director for the State of Georgia. Ms. Burrus has worked passionately in the field of child welfare since 1992. She began her career with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services in 1998. Ms. Burrus joined Georgia's Division at the time of the creation of Georgia's former Office of Adoption and served as a Regional Adoption Coordinator, where as an adoption consultant she shared in the numerous accomplishments of the agency. Ms. Burrus' passion for placement of children in forever families led her to her next job as Georgia's Statewide Recruitment Manager. This position provided Ms. Burrus with unforgettable opportunities, including being a core member of the development team for Georgia's IMPACT curriculum used for the training and development of Foster and Adoptive Parents. Currently, as the Permanency Director, Ms. Burrus is responsible for leading her team in efforts to achieve timely permanency outcomes for children in foster care. In this position she oversees the Adoptions Program, Guardianship Program and the Recruitment of Adoptive homes. Throughout her career with the Department, Ms. Burrus has worked diligently to accomplish the best outcomes for children while assuring the quality and safety of foster, adoptive and relative homes. Ms. Burrus has served on the National Foster Care Managers Board and has a Bachelor's of Science Degree from Auburn University.

**Chris and Jen Cannington:** The Canningtons were foster parents and now they are adoptive parents of two ADHD children. Mr. Cannington has personal insight into living with this line of illness as he has struggled with it himself. Mr. Cannington has been able to use his personal experience to help children cope and understand ADHD for the inside out. Mrs. Cannington is a licensed Professional Counselor. She has worked in Community Mental Health with both Adult and Child and Adolescent Population. She has spent the last 8 years working with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

**Rebecca Davidson:** Ms. Davidson has worked 18 years with DFCS (14 years with the Social Services side). Currently she serves as Social Services Supervisor for Resource Development in Region 2. She has worked all over the state of Georgia in many different roles including Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services.

**Brenda Gillespie LMSW:** Mrs. Gillespie is the program manager for the Georgia Center for Resources and Support. She is an LMSW, having graduated from the University of Georgia School of Social Work. She retired from DFCS in 2004. She led the development of IMPACT, a continuum of services for prospective foster and adoptive families. She was a consultant for EMBRACE (the Foster Family Foundation of Georgia Inc.) and program director for Miriam's Way (a Faith Based community organization). Mrs. Gillespie is the mother of three and the grandmother of four.

**Craig Goodmark:** Attorney Craig Goodmark is currently running his own small private education law practice, having previously worked for nine years at Atlanta Legal Aid Society. Craig received his education at University of Florida School of Law, and Wake Forest University, getting a bachelor's degree in History.

**Victoria Green:** Mrs. Green is an EPAC Educational Support Monitor for Region 12. Mrs. Green received her Bachelor's Degree in Music Therapy and her Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Georgia. In addition, she holds an Educational Specialist degree from Georgia Southern University. Mrs. Green has dedicated her career to educating and serving children. She has worked both as a music teacher and a professional school counselor for a number of years in the Glynn County School System. Mrs. Green has worked as an Adoption Specialist, Recruiter, Trainer, and most recently as a Glynn County Permanency Case Manager.

**Jeanne Griffin:** Ms. Griffin resides in Oak Park, Georgia. She graduated from Swainsboro High School and received her Journalism Degree from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and the University of Georgia. She worked several years with the Swainsboro Forest- Blade and the Georgia Press Association. She retired from Delta Airlines as a supervisor. Ms. Griffin began working with the State of Georgia in 2010 with the Department of Labor. She began her career with DFCS in 2014 as a Resource Development Case Manager working with Foster and Adoptive Parents.

**Judge Britt Hammond:** Juvenile Court Judge of the Toombs Judicial Circuit in the state of Georgia, Judge Hammond was appointed to the bench on October 1, 2004. He currently holds positions of leadership within the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges serving on the Permanency Committee, and as Vice Chairman of the Educational Certification Committee. He also serves as Lead Judge on several projects for the Supreme Court of Georgia's Committee on Justice for Children.

**Betty Hasting:** Ms. Hasting has been a foster parent for over 27 years. She is past president of the Tenn. State Foster and Adoptive Association. She has served on the National Foster Parent Board of Directors. Ms. Hasting has served in every area of foster care and from her own experiences bring reasons as to why we must "KEEP ON FOSTERING".

**Marjorie Jones, LPN:** Mrs. Marjorie Jones is a Certified Nurse's Assistance. She was employed for 8 years at Memorial Mission Hospital in Ashville N.C. Mrs. Jones served five years in the U.S. Army as an Administrative Assistant. She was station at Fort Carson Colorado and also in Germany. After her tour of duty was over, she and her husband lived in Fort Hood, Texas for 28 years. During that time, she furthered her education by obtaining a Nursing License at Temple Junior College and at The University of Texas. Mrs. Jones is a foster and adoptive parent and a member of the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia's Board of Directors.

**Dianne Kelly, MS, LPC:** Ms. Kelly currently serves as the Georgia DFCS Foster Care Services Director. Ms. Kelly has worked progressively in the field of child welfare since 1992. She joined the Division of Family and Children Services in 2000 where she has played a major role in accomplishing significant changes in the foster care program, including development the state's adoptive and foster parent pre-service training (IMPACT) and preparation process, and the implementation of the Foster Parent Bill of Rights. She has served as a strategic project manager, policy writer, Special Assistant to the Deputy Division Director, Office of Provider Management Director and is currently the state's Foster Care Services Director. Dianne is an expert trainer, facilitator, and outcome-based program planner. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from the University of Alabama and a Master of Science degree in Human Services Counseling from National Louis University. Ms. Kelly is a licensed mental health clinician.

**Judge Michael Key:** Judge Michael Key has served on the Juvenile Court bench in Troup County, Georgia, since 1989 and is a partner in the law firm of Key & Gordy, P.C. A graduate of Emory University School of Law, Judge Key served in the U.S. Air Force from 1971-1975. Judge Key is the past President of the Juvenile Court of Judges. Judge Key is a member of the Georgia Child Support Guidelines Commission and served as chair of the Georgia Commission on Family Violence.

**Josh Kroll:** Josh is the Project Coordinator of the Adoption Subsidy Resource Center, a program of the North American Council on Adoptable. He has worked at NACAC for over 17 years, almost all those years as either program assistant to the Adoption Subsidy Resource Center or Project Coordinator for the project. In his years working with the Adoption Subsidy Resource Center, he gained an extensive

knowledge of federal and state laws and policies that he draws upon to answer thousands of inquiries from parents, workers, and administrators.

**Karen Lambie:** Now retired, Dr. Lambie taught for a total of 32 years at both elementary school and University Levels. She has a PH.D. In educational psychology from the university of Ga. Before retiring in 2010, she made the decision to dedicate the rest of her live to work for social change and raise awareness concerning Human Rights Violations. She serves on the Board of Director for Savannah Working Against Human Trafficking (SWAHT), volunteers for Prevent Child Abuse Bulloch County, Ambassador of Hope for Shared Hope International, served on the Board of Advisors for the Malaika Foundation for Disadvantaged Girls in Kenya and is a foster Parent for Bulloch County DFCS

**Dr. Natasha LaMarr:** Dr. La Marr has a doctorate in Counseling Education and Supervision. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Prepared Enrich Facilitator, with a certification in Marriage and Family Therapy. She is an approved Clinical Supervisor and a National Certified Counselor with over 15 years of experience working with families, couples, teens, adolescents, and children. Dr. La Marr has also worked in higher education as a Professor at Mercer University, Devry University and Bauder College. The focus of Dr. La Marr's research has been on the Effects of Journal, Marriage & Family, Integrating Spirituality into Counseling and the Dissolution of Marriage with in the Community.

**Dana Moore:** Ms. Moore was born in Cedar Grove, Georgia and graduated from West Laurens High School. She received her Middle Grades Education from Middle Georgia College and Mercer University. Ms. Moore has been employed with DFCS for 18 years. She started her career in Telfair County as a Social Service Generalist and then transferred to Dodge County DFCS as a Social Service Case Manager where she worked in Child Protective Services. In 2008, Ms. Moore transferred to Region 9 Resource Development Unit working with foster and adoptive parents, and in 2010, she became the supervisor for the RD unit.

**Misty Kirkland Nash:** Ms. Kirkland Nash has been with the Georgia Department of Human Service (DFCS) for eight years. She has worked in adoption placement and foster homes. Presently, Ms. Kirkland is a Social Services Supervisor. She is a Valdosta State University Graduate and has received her LMSW Degree.

**Judy Nino:** Ms. Nino is employed with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. She is the Field Program Specialist for CAPS.

**Adrian Owens:** Mr. Owens has been employed with the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) for 12 years. He began his career with DFCS in Gwinnett County in 2003 as a Termination of Parental Rights Specialist in the adoption unit. In 2005, Mr. Owens joined the DFCS State Adoption Unit as a Policy Specialist. In 2008, Mr. Owens became Program Manager in the Social Services Administration Unit (SSAU) and in 2012, he became the SSAU Director. Mr. Owens and his staff provide management and oversight of the IV-E Adoption Assistance program, post –adoption contracts, adoption assistance policy, Interstate Adoption/Foster care (ICAMA) Medicaid, Adoption Assistance training and consultation, adoption records management, and the Regional Post Adoption Unit.

**Tom Rawlings:** Mr. Tom Rawlings has a long record of using his legal and advocacy skills on behalf of those who most need help, especially children and families. For the past 12 years, he has served in numerous policy, legal, and court leadership role. As the first full time Juvenile Court Judge for Georgia's

Middle Circuit, he started an innovative mental therapy program for children and youth in his court and their families.

**Debra Ross, MSW – Program Coordinator/ Parent Coach:** Debra Ross, MSW has worked in the field of Social Work for more than 30 + years. She has worked in both the private and public sector providing a unique approach to ensuring the prevention, protection and preservation of parents and children. Her creative approach and innovative strategies along with years of child welfare experience help to make her an exceptional advocate for families and children.

**Autumn Shepard:** Mrs. Shepard is an EPAC Education Support Monitor for Region 4 and Douglas County. She has worked with DFCS for 13 Years, previously serving as a foster care case manager and a social services supervisor. In addition, Mrs. Shepard is an adoptee through Georgia’s DFCS.

**Anthony Stover:** Mr. Stover is the Courts Training Coordinator for MAAC/Georgia EmpowerMent. He is also in the United States Navy Reserve.

**Renee Sylvester, MA, LAPC:** Mrs. Sylvester has been working with families involved with child welfare system in Georgia since 2007. During that time, Mrs. Sylvester has provided the families skills and resources needed to provide children with safety, stability, and permanency. Mrs. Sylvester has also been employed as an adjunct instructor with South University, where she taught Lifespan Development and Human Sexuality.

**Steven Turner:** Mr. Turner currently serves as a Project Manager with the Division of Family and Children Services in the Permanency Unit and has been gainfully employed with the Department for 11 years. Passionate about serving and working with families, Mr. Turner brings well over 20 years of combined experience serving the needs of children, adolescents, families and men in the School System, Department of Juvenile Justice and the Community Services Board. In his spare time, Mr. Turner enjoys coaching his sons in football and soccer as well as running his fatherhood organization, F.I.R.E.M.E.N. in a local metro Atlanta elementary school. F.I.R.E.M.E.N. stands for Father’s Involvement Ready and Engaged Meeting Every Need. Mr. Turner is married to his college sweetheart, Trina, and they have fruitfully created 4 dynamic arrows in Tayler, Steven, II, Joshua and Jordyn. Mr. Turner is a Christopher Newport University (Newport News, VA) “thank Lordy” graduate.

**Teresa Thornton Reese:** She is graduated from Mercer University with a B S Degree major in Human Services with a minor in Criminal Justice. During her college career she received Women’s Back to School Scholarship and Governor’s Internship. Teresa is a mother of two children and a Nana to five grandchildren. Teresa have been employed with the Georgia Division of Child and Family Services for fifteen years. She was a case manager in foster care for 13 years prior to moving to Independent Living Specialist. Mrs. Reese is currently the Independent Living Specialist for region 12.

**Gloria Washington:** Ms. Washington is employed with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. She is the Program Manager for CAPS.

**Leah Waters:** Mrs. Waters has been with the Department of Family and Children Services for 14 years. Mrs. Waters started off as a Foster Care Case Manager before being promoted to Adoption and Resource Development Supervisor where she spent the majority of her DFCS career recruiting Foster and Adoptive Families and working to finalize adoptions. Mrs. Waters joined Social Services Administration Unit (SSAU) working in the title IV-E Adoption Assistance in February 2014. In addition to

managing the contract with Ga. Center Resources and Support, Mrs. Waters assists with policy consultation, ICAMA Medicaid and approves all Special Services Adoption Assistance requests.

**Ashley Willcott:** Ms. Willcott is a Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist who has served as an attorney in various capacities in juvenile courts since 1992. She is a 1989 graduate of Newcomb College, Tulane University with a degree in Psychology and English. She earned a Juris Doctorate from Emory University School of Law in 1992. Mrs. Willcott was appointed by Governor Deal on February 1, 2014 as Executive Director of the Office of Child Advocate for the Protection of Children. Mrs. Willcott is a native of Houston, TX now living in Dunwoody, Georgia with her husband. She is a member of the First Lady's Children Welfare Reform Council, the child fatality Review Panel, and the Supreme Court Justice for Children Committee's Court Improvement.

**Jennifer Williams:** Ms. Williams is an assistant program manager for the Educational Programming Assessment and Consultation Unit of Georgia's Department of Family and Children Services. Ms. Williams is the direct supervisor for a team of 14 Educational Support Monitors who serve as educational advocates for children in foster care throughout Georgia. Ms. Williams is a strong advocate for the education of children and has 20 + years of experience working with populations of children and youth most vulnerable to educational failure.