

ADVOCATES

SOUTH CAROLINA HEART GALLERY

Millie Qualls, Heart Gallery Coordinator



June 30, 2009 marked the first "anniversary" of the South Carolina Heart Gallery contract with the South Carolina Department of Social Services. It has been an exciting first year and we anticipate tremendous growth and success in the coming year!

Many thanks to SCDSS Adoption Recruiters, volunteer photographers, Review Board staff, and Review Board members for your collaboration and dedication on behalf of our waiting children. 2009 has been full of Heart Gallery exhibits, receptions, and photo shoots. Between February and September, more than 50 exhibits were completed, along with 12 media features and numerous presentations to community groups. A total of 118 children attended photo shoots, enjoying local zoos and parks, along with refreshments donated by Review Board members. Six receptions were held in conjunction with exhibits, with refreshments arranged or donated by Review Board members. All of these activities contributed to the ongoing increase of visitors to the SC Heart Gallery website, resulting in 800 inquiries from families interested in adopting during the period of January 1 to August 10, 2009!

A few highlights deserve special recognition:

Heart Gallery exhibits arranged courtesy of local Review Board members included Bank of America and Camille's Sidewalk Café, Greenville (RB 13C Scott Stephens); First Baptist Church North Augusta (RB 2B Steve McElmurray); Gaffney City Hall (RB 7B Sissy Brock and Cherokee Foster Parent Association); Trident Tech, Charleston (RB 9B Rosetta Givens-Mitchell); Aiken Center for the Arts (RB 2B Anne Laver); and The School Spot (RB 13D Heather Purtle).

Heart Gallery receptions hosted by local Review Boards were held at Camille's Sidewalk Café, Greenville (RB 13C Scott Stephens and his wife, Loretta); Trident Tech, Charleston (two events courtesy of RB 9B & 9E, along with the Partnership for Change in Communities & Families); Union County Arts Council (RB 16A); and Aiken Center for the Arts (RB 2B).

If you have not already done so, please visit www.scheartgallery.org to view beautiful portraits of South Carolina children awaiting adoption from foster care — I promise the experience will move you!

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Heart Gallery Exhibit Bank of America Plaza Greenville, SC



Scott Moore, Regional Manager, Ashley Furniture; and Millie Qualls, Heart Gallery Coordinator



Michelle Lyon, SCDSS Region I Adoption Specialist; and Ashley Abreu, SCDSS Region I Adoption Recruiter

Mission Statement

The Foster Care Review Program provides an external system of accountability and advocacy for children and families involved with the foster care system. The Division utilizes panels of community volunteers to promote safe, permanent homes for children in foster care in a timely manner and to increase public awareness regarding the impact of child abuse and neglect.

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“Does it work?”

A foster child’s question about making wishes.

DIRECTLY SPEAKING ... DETAILS FROM DENISE

By Denise T. Barker, Executive Director

At a recent SC Heart Gallery photo shoot, a volunteer was trying to coax conversation from a rather reluctant, sullen teenager. This effort was proving difficult as they walked along until they came to a lovely fountain with coins scattered across the bottom of the pool. The teenager was immediately interested. “Why is there money in there? Why don’t people come along and take it out?” were her questions to the volunteer. He explained to her that when some people see a pretty fountain, they like to close their eyes, make a wish, then toss a coin in to secure their hopes that the wish will come true. “What do they wish for?” she asked, very reluctant to accept this concept. “Well, they wish for things they want, or things that they think would make them happy” was his reply. The teenager was skeptical about this explanation and continued to ponder the coins in the bottom of the fountain. “Would you like to try it?” the volunteer asked, pulling a coin from his pocket. Somewhat reluctantly, she took the coin. “Do I have to tell you what I wish for?” she asked. “Oh no, that can be your secret” he told her. Squeezing her eyes closed, she hesitated a moment, then tossed the coin into the water. As they continued their walk in silence down the path, she suddenly turned, touched his arm and whispered in a very quiet voice, “Does it work?” “Does what work?” he asked her in a puzzled voice. “You know, the wishing, does it work?” He smiled. It was the only hopeful expression he had seen on her face all afternoon.

What might her wish have been? Was it a wish for a family? Was she wishing that a photograph taken that day might lead her to a place of stability, safety and love? A place where she wouldn’t have to wonder every day where she would be the next day? That’s my wish for her and for the dozens of children and youth just like her who come to Heart Gallery photo shoots full of hope, mischief, sadness, joy and dozens of other emotions. We must never forget that they are totally dependent on the adults they know and the unknown adults who may see their pictures, to make decisions regarding their futures. Do we do

a good job ensuring that it’s a permanent future, or do we settle for some other plan that might be easier to accomplish? Achieving permanency for our children is an incredible responsibility, but we know from the growing number of placements, inquiries and new families generated by the work of the SC Heart Gallery, that permanency is possible, even in some of the most difficult cases.

Our Annual Report for 2008-2009 has just been released electronically. I hope you will read it carefully and note areas of progress, as well as areas where we still have much work to do. 2008 was a difficult year and more challenges lie before us, but we must stay focused on our progress and keep moving forward. Why? Because children in foster care are making wishes everyday. We have a responsibility to make some of those important wishes come true.

Regional Training 2009

All four Regional Training sessions around the state have been completed. What a turnout! It has been wonderful to touch base with so many of you in our various locations and to hear from you about issues in your counties. One of the most valuable aspects of these meetings is having the opportunity for you all to talk to each other and learn how other boards work and to share your many successes. Staff loves to have your feedback and we believe our time together has been very beneficial. We are learning a lot from Keith Frazier, the Director for Pickens County DSS, about the Statewide Recruitment Initiative for Foster and Adoptive Homes. Keith’s willingness to travel to each location to explain this exciting new venture and to provide county by county updates and recruitment plans is very much appreciated by all of us. I hope you were able to attend one of our Regional Training sessions. If not, please allow time in an upcoming business meeting to let Board members who did attend bring you up to date. Thanks so much for caring enough to continue your “Review Board Education” through these tough economic times! Where there’s a will, there’s a way!

2009 Regional Training Attendance

Upstate:	26	(27 Registered)
Pee Dee:	9	(13 Registered)
Low		
Country:	14	(26 Registered)
Midlands:	15	(24 Registered)
Boards with 100% Attendance:	1B, 3A, 8A	

Low Country Regional Training August 31, 2009



Sheila Atkinson, RB 1B; Max Kaster, RB 1A; and Betty Profit, RB 1B



Gene Coon, RB 9E; Kathleen Bounds, RB 9E; and Virginia Infinger, RB 1B



Pee Dee Regional Training July 20, 2009

Diane Rieg, RB 4B; Linda Godfrey, RB 12B; Lucy Brown, RB 4B; Shelby Crawley, RB 4B; Carolyn Wallace, RB 4A; Mary Beth Halvorson, RB 15B; and Julia Watson, RB 15B

**STRICTLY BY THE BOARD
NEWS FROM THE STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

By Sissy Brock, Chairperson, State Board of Directors

I would like to take this opportunity thank the large percentage of you who have agreed to temporarily suspend your per diem and/or travel expenses as we work through this very difficult budget year. These are hard times for everyone, so your willingness to forego these payments means even more and makes me appreciate the large number of caring, dedicated volunteers we have serving on our local boards. On behalf of all of the State Board, and the Review Board staff - thank you.

Please remember to continue tracking and submitting your volunteer hours on your blue sheets as these are more valuable than they have even been. Again, I thank you all for the time and commitment you bring to this program. I look forward to continuing our many good works on behalf of South Carolina's children in foster care.

State Board Members

Martha (Sissy) Brock, 5th Congressional District, Chairperson (local review board 7B)

Charles (Chuck) Koches, *1st Congressional District* (local review board 9B)

Jo Hecker, *2nd Congressional District* (local review board 5B)

Carolyn Payton-Pinson, *3rd Congressional District* (local review board 10B)

Monica Hill, *4th Congressional District* (local review board 7C)

Vacant, *6th Congressional District*

Vernon McCurry, *Member at-Large* (local review board 13C)

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A REVIEW BOARD VOLUNTEER?

- ◆ You need to be at least 18 years of age and able to commit to spending one day per month reviewing cases. You will be asked to work with others in the child welfare system to bring about positive change for foster children.
- ◆ Each review board member is appointed by the Governor, upon the recommendation of legislative delegations, and is required to reside in the judicial district of the review board of which he or she is a member.
- ◆ For more information, please call the Governor's Office Foster Care Review Program at 803-734-0480, or contact your local legislative delegation.

On August 25, 2009, Review Board program staff presented awards for Review Board Member of the Year and Review Boards of Year at a luncheon in Monks Corner. Review Board members, their spouses and two legislators also attended the luncheon honoring these review board members.



Review Boards of the Year

Standing: Dr. David Fitzpatrick, 9E; Representative Joseph S. Daning; Senator Paul G. Campbell, Chuck Koches, 9B; Walter Mitchell, 9E; Jan Moore, 9B, Ronald Shepard, 9E; Gene Coon, 9E
Seated: Kathleen Bounds, 9E; Rosetta Mitchell, 9B; Lois Dennis, 9B
Not Pictured: Stephanie Easterling, RB 9B



Executive Director Denise T. Barker and Review Board Member of the Year Chuck Koches, RB 9B

FOSTER CARE REVIEW NEWS AND VIEWS—CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW

By Beth Green, Program Director

During the week of July 27, 2009, eight Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) members, from five local review boards, and one staff member, participated in the 2009 South Carolina Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). The CSFR is a process that assesses how well a state is performing in achieving positive outcomes for children and families engaged in child welfare services. In accordance with Federal law and regulations, the policies and procedures for all States who draw down Federal IV-E monies are reviewed using standardized guidelines. Participation in South Carolina's 2009 CSFR provided an opportunity for Review Board members and staff to assist in identifying strengths of our State programs and areas in which improvements are needed.

The CFSRs were authorized by the 1994 Amendments to the Social Security Act and are administered by the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Teams of Federal and State staff conduct the CFSRs, which consist of on-site case reviews and stakeholder interviews, all using a review instrument designed by the federal government. Outcome measures related to child safety, permanency and well-being are assessed, as well as a variety of systemic factors.

The South Carolina Department of Social Services' initial CFSR was conducted in 2003. Based on the findings from that review, the Agency initiated a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) in 2004 spelling out how identified problems would be addressed by both the Agency and identified stakeholders. Three counties were selected for the 2009 CFSR. Greenville County was selected as South Carolina's largest metropolitan area. Aiken and Beaufort counties were selected as medium sized counties with differing attributes.

Foster Care Review Board Program Supervisor **Stephen Clyburn** served on the on-site review team in Greenville. Review Board Coordinators **Shirel Frazier** and **Elizabeth Codega** also completed training and were available as alternate team members if needed.

Denise Barker, Executive Director of the Review Board was interviewed along with other State level stakeholders and the following local Review Board members participated in stakeholder interviews in their respective counties.

Greenville - Courtney Madden (13B), Jane Daniel (13C), Scott Stephens (13C) and Tommy Rice (13D)

Aiken - the late Mary Ann Rogers (2B) and Anne Laver (2B)

Beaufort - Linda Cecil (14B) and Mona Huff (14B)

It is no surprise that the 2009 CFSR indicated that South Carolina has its strengths and challenges. When the final written report is received, the SC Department of Social Services' will develop and submit a new PIP to the Children's Bureau to address the areas needing improvement identified during this review. As Review Board members and staff we play a major role in South Carolina's improvement in all areas identified in the CSFR. These improvements will apply to all counties, not just those reviewed during the CSFR.

Thanks to all the FCRB members and staff who committed their time, talent and knowledge to the 2009 CFSR. The children and the areas for improvement identified belong to all of us. Let's roll up our sleeves and work together to make our communities and our State better for our children and families.

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COMMITTED TO KIDS! SMILING NEW FACES

Review Board New Member Orientation was held on March 16, 2009 for eight new local review board members. Orientation was also held on May 4, 2009 for five new local review board members, and on August 24, 2009 for nine new local review board members.

Orientation training is mandatory for all incoming board members and is offered at least four times each year. If you have review board members who have not completed this training, please encourage their attendance. Volunteer Guardians ad Litem, Guardian ad Litem staff, and other child welfare professionals are also welcome to attend. Please call (803) 734-0480 to reserve a space. **The next New Member Orientation will be held on Monday, November 9, 2009.**



March 16, 2009

Standing: Anne Laver, RB 2B;
Nicolet Ryan, RB 15C;
Barbara Puffenbarger, RB 5C;
Dee Stogdill, RB 11B;
Pam Bond, RB 5B; and
Dottie Cronise, RB 5B

Seated: Marion Pearson, RB 3B and Daniel Bracken, RB 13A



May 4, 2009

Standing: Betty Profit, RB1B and
Dawn Bridges, RB 7B

Seated: Sharon Atkinson, RB 1B;
Frances Littlejohn, RB 7B; and
Carolyn Parker, RB 3A

August 24, 2009

Standing: Gerald Mackey, RB 9C;
Elizabeth Masiowski, RB 9C;
Weldon Davis, RB 7A;
Patricia Owens, RB 16A; and
Timothy Thompson, RB 10B

Seated: Ruth Cupp, RB 9A;
Donna Lee, RB 10A;
Carole Clardy, RB 4A; and
Penny McMahan, RB 1A



SC HEART GALLERY (CONTINUED)

Photo shoots certainly held the most fun for children, as well as for Review Board staff and volunteers!

- ♥ 23 children enjoyed a damp and chilly day at the Greenville Zoo in April, assisted by Review Board staff member Anne Maertens and volunteers Jo Hecker (RB 5B); Mary Ann Riley, Zora Massing, Alice Armantrout, and Bill Bond (RB 7C); Jan Dulin (RB 13A); Brenda Lipe (RB 13B); Jane Daniel (RB 13C); and former RB member June Bond. Thanks to RB 7C for providing snacks and drinks for all!
- ♥ Early rain and muddy ground did not keep 18 children from having a good time at Charleston's Riverfront Park in June. Review Board staff Robin Campbell and Karen Airasian assisted, along with volunteers Chuck Koches (RB 9B), Gene Coon (RB 9E) and Barbara Acobe (RB 9D). Drinks and snacks were supplied by staff member Kate Bozik and volunteers Kathleen Bounds (RB 9E) and Barbara Acobe (RB 9D). Barbara also brought souvenir water bottles from the Charleston Water Department for the children!
- ♥ Despite a less than bright forecast, 47 children had a great day at Riverbanks Zoo in July, assisted by Review Board staff Emily Arnold and Stephen Clyburn, along with volunteers Cathy Griffin (RB 2B), Jo Hecker and Pam Bond (RB 5B), Rachel Silver (RB 5C), Dee Stogdill (RB 11B), and former RB member Alyson Wissinger and husband Chris. Rachel and Dee brought along friends from the Richland County Child Care and CASA groups - - thanks Doris, Beth, and Dotty! Children, photographers, and volunteers were treated to lunch courtesy of donations from Cathy Griffin, the late Mary Ann Rogers, and Steve McElmurray of RB 2B and Jo Hecker of RB 5B.
- ♥ Warm and muggy weather greeted 29 children at Timrod Park in Florence in July. Assisting were Review Board staff Emily Dixon, Elizabeth Codega, Kate Bozik, and Stephanie Spink, along with volunteers Mary Beth Halvorson and Julia Watson of RB 15B. Thanks to Review Boards 15B and 15C for supplying snacks and drinks!
- ♥ Extra special thanks go to RB 14A members and Heart Gallery photographer and Review Board member Kelly Ramsey for conducting an individual photo shoot for a child who was unable to attend a group event, and to RB 7C member Mary Ann Riley for donating albums so that each child photographed could receive copies of their photos.



Kim Sullivan, Mrs. South Carolina
and
Jordan Suber, Miss Union Teen

Union County DSS Foster Care Recruiter Am Austin did a great job organizing a Heart Gallery Reception held on May 14, 2009. 16A Review Board members Janet Sherbert and friends hosted the event. Food was donated by Food Lion, Bi-Lo, Jimmy's Fresh Air Galaxy, and Piggly Wiggly; and flowers were donated by Two Sisters Florals and More. Union County DSS and Region II Adoptions staff were on hand, as well as 16 RB Member Dorothy Dixon, retired BM Dorothy Gist, and State Board members Sissy Brock and Monica Hill.



Heart Gallery Exhibit, Bank of America Plaza, Greenville



Heart Gallery Reception, Union County Arts Council

WHAT TO DO WITH BOARD MEMBERS WHO WON'T DO ANYTHING

Adapted from: Jan Masaoka, <http://www.blueavocado.org/category/topic/board-cafe>

"He never says a word at reviews and never helps with our service projects. Why does he even stay on the board?" "She assured us she would represent us at the Partners' Meeting, then she didn't show up! Why didn't she let one of us know she couldn't do it?" Aaagh!"

Whose responsibility is it to "do something" about a board member who is AWOL, deadwood, undependable, a procrastinator, or worse? Answer: Yours. Every board member shares in the responsibility to involve each board member in contributing to the well-being of the board and the organization. Whether you're the board chairperson, or a member of the board, your responsibilities include monitoring non-participation and intervening with board members when necessary. In some cases you may need to talk with your staff member or the executive director about improving the way your board functions. If you're the executive director, or the assigned staff member, you may need to discuss the situation with the State Board member assigned to that particular board.

There are two things you **must** do in the case of a board member who is not participating. First, you must do something. The problem is likely to get worse, and non-participating board members have a demoralizing impact on even the best of boards. Second, be confident and hopeful. Many board members just need a little reminder to be more conscientious, and others will be grateful that you've given them a graceful way to relinquish tasks or even leave the board. Things can be worked out.

Short-term strategies

- Check to be sure that expectations were made clear to the board member before he or she joined the board. "I know you joined the board recently and I'm not sure that you realize that we ask all board members to participate in our annual service project. Let me explain to you what most board members do, so you can see whether you'll be able to work on this with us."
- Hold a board discussion at which expectations are reconsidered and re-affirmed. Agree on a list of expectations for every board member.
- Be sensitive to possible health issues or personal reasons why a good board member isn't participating as much as he or she has in the past.
- Transfer responsibilities to someone else. "I'm concerned about finishing the shopping for our Christmas drop-in. Since you're so busy, maybe it would work out for the best if John took your list and picked up what we need."
- Together with the board member, explore whether he or she really has the time right now to be able to be an active board member. "I'm calling to check in with you since you haven't been able to make our last two meetings. Is this just a busy time for you? We really want to have your participation, but if it isn't realistic, perhaps we should see if there's a less time-consuming way than board membership for you to be involved with children in our community."

Long-term strategies

- Encourage individuals to take a "leave of absence" from the board if they have health, work, or other reasons why they cannot participate fully for awhile. Explain that returning to the board when a later vacancy occurs may be possible if current service is a problem for them.
- Have a board discussion or a written board survey on what makes it difficult for people to participate fully. "Are there things we can change about the day of board meetings that would make it easier for you to attend?" "Do you feel like you need additional training or information about the things we cover at meetings?"
- Consider whether board participation is meaningful to board members. Have lunch with some of the less-active members and ask them about it: "I'm sensing that board participation just isn't as substantive or significant as some board members want it to be. What do you think are the reasons, and what do you think we can do to make our board more effective?"
- Consider contacting a member of your local legislative delegation to discuss the problem. Perhaps it is time to bring some new people onto your board for some new energy and a new perspective. But remember, they will want to know what you have done to try to solve the problem before bringing it to them.

REVIEW BOARD ROUND-UP

Submitted by: Review Board Coordinators and Program Staff, and Local Review Board Members

In September, Review Board member Rachel Silver (Review Board 5C, Richland county) was named Revente's first Woman of the Month for her work on behalf of children in foster care. She received a \$500 check for her favorite charity, the Child Care Project of Richland County Foster & Adoptive Parents Association (RCFAPA). The presentation was made by Revente owner Debbie McDaniel. Current and past RCFAPA presidents Delores Saini and Mike Farrell were also on hand for the presentation. "This could not have come at a better time," said Silver. "Our program has depended solely on contributions since its inception, and Revente's very generous gift will allow us to continue for several more months."



Revente's Woman of the Month

Debbie McDaniel, Revente; Rachel Silver, Review Board 5C; Delores Saini and Mike Farrell, Richland County Foster and Adoptive Parents Association

Bravo Kudos Congrats



Creative Kids Toyshop

Patti Rosenfeld and Melodie Ingwersen, Creative Kids Toyshop; and Delores Saini and Mike Farrell, Richland County Foster and Adoptive Parents Association

Revente wasn't the only Five Points merchant to support Richland County children and their families. Melodie Ingwersen, owner of Creative Kids Toyshop, donated a basket of toys for the children in foster care and will sponsor RCFAPA in the Columbia Cares event August 29, 2009.

The Child Care Project is the service project of Richland County Foster Care Review Boards which provides child care, food and activities for children while their foster parents attend the monthly meeting/training sessions. The Project is currently in its third year, serving an average of 28 children each month ranging from a few weeks old through 12 years of age. For more information about the program, or to get involved, e-mail rsilver@sc.rr.com.

If you know a woman who shops and/or consigns at Revente and who has made an impact on the lives of others, please nominate her for Revente's Woman of the Month. E-mail nominations to revente@sc.rr.com. The winner will receive a check for \$500.00 made out to the charity of her choice.

REVIEW BOARD ROUND-UP (CONTINUED)

◆ **Review Board 2A:** Dick’s Sporting Goods in Aiken donated large tote bags that Review Board Members generously filled with age-appropriate hygiene items and school necessities. They donated the tote bags to foster children in both Aiken and Barnwell counties. Many thanks to 2A Board Members for their kindness.

Karen Airasian

◆ **Review Board 2B:** Board member Steve McElmurray organized a Heart Gallery display in March at his church, North August Baptist Church. In July, Review Board members hosted a Heart Gallery reception and exhibit at the Aiken Center for the Arts. Review Board members donated funds to purchase snacks and volunteered for the Region II Heart Gallery photo shoot at Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia. They also purchased school supplies and filled five backpacks for children at Helping Hands.

Karen Airasian

◆ **Review Board 5C:** Board Members select one caseworker each month for his or her excellence in casework. In March, the Board presented Porscha Henson with a gift in recognition of her excellent casework. At the monthly review, Ms. Henson was thoroughly knowledgeable about her case, professional in her approach to the Review Board and other parties, and was working toward an appropriate plan. Please join us in congratulating her for her excellent work.

Child Care Program at Richland County DSS:

How often are children encouraged to play with mud? Well, they all had that opportunity in April when art teacher (and Mrs. South Carolina) Kim Sullivan brought clay for making Palmetto Tree plaques, treasure boxes, and pinch pots. Twenty-six beautiful children were cared for by Review Board members and volunteers while their foster parents attended the meeting for adults.

Rachel Silver, Board Member

*In Loving Memory
Mary Ann S. Rogers
May 21, 1936 — September 16, 2009*



Review Board member Mary Ann Rogers was appointed to Review Board 2B, Aiken county, in December, 1994, where she served consecutively until her death in September of this year. Mary Ann was a dedicated board member and she will be greatly missed by everyone at the Children’s Foster Care Review Board .



April Child Care Program at Richland County DSS

◆ **Review Board 3B:** The Board Members coordinated their efforts with the Department of Social Services to serve an on-going need for the children in foster care. Many of the children that enter foster care do so unexpectedly and do not have the necessary personal items to meet their basic toiletry needs. Board Members prepared at least 30 packages for these children. Board Members also donated twelve mattress pads to the Greenhouse Shelter. Kudos to Review Board 3B for working with DSS to identify and meet a critical need.

Stephen Clyburn and Stephanie Spink

◆ **Review Board 7A:** That back-to-school feeling is in the air and Review Board 7A in Spartanburg has the spirit of the season! Board Members decided to devote their time, energy, and finances to providing backpacks, pens, paper, and other miscellaneous school supplies. The Board recognizes that education is the key to success in life, and that means having the right tools for the job. Thank you 7A!

Emily Arnold

REVIEW BOARD ROUND-UP (CONTINUED)

- ◆ **Review Board 7B:** In May, Review Board members, along with the Cherokee County Guardian ad Litem Program, held a drop-in for foster parents. Board Members also completed a project of supplying over \$600 in school supplies to DSS for children in foster care in Spartanburg county.

Stephanie Spink

- ◆ **Review Board 9A:** Board Members continued their service project of awarding a gift card to one case manager on a monthly basis. The award criteria includes the thoroughness of the advance packets and case presentation. Thanks to Review Board 9A for recognizing the hard work of case managers.

Michelle White

- ◆ **Review Board 9D:** During months when the Review Board did not meet, Board Members toured different agencies and organizations in order to have a better understanding of what these different entities provide for the Charleston County children in foster care. Two of the tours included meeting with Intensive Foster Care and Clinical Services and the Youth Advocate Program. Hats off to 9D for their continued efforts in promoting safety and permanence for children.

Michelle White

- ◆ **Review Board 13B:** Board Member Beth Humphries, along with Jane Daniels and Tammy Kowaleski from Review Board 13C, volunteered at the BMW Pro-Am event to benefit the Greenville County Foster Parent Association. Thanks to Beth Humphries for facilitating this project.

Anne Maertens

- ◆ **Review Board 13C:** During the month of July, the Women's Missionary Society of Edwards Road Baptist Church held a fund-raiser and purchased backpacks/duffel bags for foster children. Board Member Vernon McCurry delivered the first round to Greenville County Director Deb Bridges, and in August, he delivered an additional 22 backpacks..

The Rotary Club of Greenville East, where Vernon McCurry is a member, presented \$1,000 to Beth Humphries for the Greenville County Foster Parent Association "Shoe Night." At this event, Greenville County children in foster care receive free, brand new shoes!

Board Member Scott Stephens provided space and food at Camille Sidewalk Café in downtown Greenville for the Heart Gallery reception held in March. Thank you Scott!

Anne Maertens

- ◆ **Review Board 13D:** Board Member Heather Purtle offered her business, *The School Spot*, for a Heart Gallery display during the months of August and September. Thank you, Heather!

Anne Maertens

- ◆ **Review Board 16A:** Review Board members have donated several hundred dollars throughout 2009 for the foster children in York and Union counties to attend summer camps, proms, and various other recreational activities. The Review Board also contributed money to several high school and college graduates. Board members even purchased a bike for a child in foster care so this child could get more exercise. Way to go 16A!

Dorothy Dixon, Chairperson of Review Board 16A, was the proud recipient of the Child Empowerment Award given by the World Wellness Organization at Kids Day America/International on May 16, 2009 in Rock Hill. Kids Day America/International is an event dedicated to children's health, safety and environmental issues. Ms. Dixon not only volunteers on the Foster Care Review Board, but also works with Worthy Boys and Girls camps each summer to provide dental screenings as part of her job with the Colgate Dental Van. Ms. Dixon obviously loves what she does as she has been volunteering in her community for over 20 years! Thank you Ms. Dixon for your extraordinary advocacy and volunteer efforts. You truly are a role model and are very much appreciated.

Michelle White



Scott Stephens, Review Board 13C;
Emaline Burnett, Greenville County DSS Program Director;
and Vernon McCurry, Review Board 13C

UNION COUNTY DSS RECOGNIZES 16A REVIEW BOARD MEMBER FOR HER 16 YEARS OF SERVICE

In March of this year Ms. Dorothy Gist retired from 16 consecutive years of service on Review Board 16A. The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Deborah S. Bishop, County Director, Union County Department of Social Services.

"I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the sixteen years of service of Ms. Dorothy Gist on the Foster Care Review Board 16A. The commitment shown to the foster children of Union and York counties by her has been tremendous.

While serving on the board, she has been a strong advocate for the children we serve. She has participated in fund raising events, recruitment and is currently assisting with identifying volunteer guardians from the Union area to speak for our foster children in court. She has been committed to ensuring permanency for foster children which is the goal of both our agencies.

Foster Care Review Board has always been a strong ally in what our agency tries to accomplish with the children we serve. The Board's assistance in guiding the progress of these children is greatly appreciated by the Department and Union county specifically."



Union County DSS Director Deborah Bishop, Review Board member Dorothy Gist, Granddaughter Michela Grace Gist, and Foster Parent Recruiter Amy Austin

What a wonderful tribute to Ms. Gist. We join Ms. Bishop in her praise and acknowledgement of Ms. Gist's service to the Review Board and to the children of Union and York counties.

Legal Lines: Legislative Update

By Shannon A. Wiley, Staff Attorney

On June 2, 2009, Governor Mark Sanford signed House Bill 3311 into law, creating a time frame for holding termination of parental rights hearings and establishing the Responsible Father Registry in South Carolina.

As many of you already know, House Bill 3311 amended the statutory framework governing termination of parental rights actions by requiring that TPR hearings be held within 120 days of the TPR complaint being filed. Although the court may continue the TPR hearing, the hearing must then be scheduled for a date and time certain. Prior to the enactment of House Bill 3311, the Department of Social Services was required to file a TPR complaint within 60 days once TPR and adoption was court-ordered as the child's permanent plan; however, there was no statutory requirement designating when the TPR hearing must be held. This amendment will shorten the length of time children remain in foster care by requiring that TPR hearings be held in an expeditious manner. The requirement that TPR hearings be held within 120 days will apply to TPR complaints filed on or after July 1, 2009.

House Bill 3311 also established the Responsible Father Registry, a mechanism by which an unmarried man who has potentially fathered a child can protect his right to receive notice of termination of parental rights and adoption proceedings. Under this new law, an unmarried man who does not register with the Responsible Father Registry and who is not otherwise involved in the child's life effectively waives his right to notice of these proceedings. Thus, the establishment of the Responsible Father Registry will end the requirement of providing unknown fathers notice of TPR and/or adoption proceedings through "John Doe" publications, and—like the time frame for holding TPR hearings—will shorten the length of time that children remain in foster care. The Responsible Father Registry will go into effect and begin accepting registrants on January 1, 2010, and it will affect the notification requirements of termination of parental rights and adoption actions filed on or after July 1, 2010.

**South Carolina Governor's Office
Children's Foster Care Review Board**

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REVIEW BOARD CALENDAR

State Board of Directors	Fri Oct 23	Lexington County Library West Columbia
New Member Orientation	Mon Nov 9	10:00 am - 3:00 pm Edgar Brown Building
Veterans Day	Wed Nov 11	State Offices Closed
Thanksgiving Holidays	Thur Nov 26 Fri Nov 27	State Offices Closed
Christmas Holidays	Fri Dec 25 Mon Dec 28	State Offices Closed
New Year's Day	Fri Jan 1	State Offices Closed

All locations in Columbia, unless otherwise noted; times subject to change.
Submissions are welcome; please direct them to the editor.

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Anyone wishing to submit an article should contact *Advocates* editor Lisa Vosburgh. Call 803-734-0474, or send an e-mail to lvosburgh@oepp.sc.gov.

The publisher reserves the right to make the final determination as to the content of each issue. Articles submitted are subject to editing and are not guaranteed inclusion.

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