



## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

325 North Salisbury Street • MSC 2406 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2406  
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal, Director  
(919) 733-3055

April 14, 2003

**Dear County Director of Social Services**

**Attention: Child Welfare Workers**

**Re: Conference for Foster and Adoptive Parents**

We are pleased to make you aware of an upcoming conference opportunity for foster and adoptive parents. The 2002 Session of the N.C. General Assembly allocated funds to DHHS, NC Division of Social Services in honor of Representative Ruth M. Easterling with the express purpose of training foster and adoptive families of special needs children. Towards this end, the *Light the Spark, Ignite the Spirit* Training Conference will be held in Greensboro, June 6-8, 2003 and is sponsored by the NC Division of Social Services, NC Kids Adoption and Foster Care Network, NC Foster Parent Association and the Family Support Network of North Carolina.

We will be able to accommodate 600 participants at this training conference. Funds have been allocated to pay for the majority of participant meals, hotel accommodations and each household may apply for respite care reimbursement. (All respite care plans will need to have the approval of the licensing agency.) This conference will feature some of the most highly regarded experts in North Carolina covering such topics as surrogate parenting (education), attachment issues, education and schools, transracial parenting, self-care, behavior management, mental health and many more.

In March, a notification postcard was mailed to each licensed foster care home and each adoptive home receiving adoption assistance in North Carolina. Families were asked to contact a toll free number if they were interested in attending the conference and receiving a brochure. The conference brochure will be sent to families who expressed an interest in coming to the conference this week. The deadline for registration is May 6, 2003.

To fairly distribute the number of participants by county and by private agency, an analysis was completed based on the number of licensed foster care homes and number of children that were adopted from your county that are currently receiving adoption assistance funds. You will find the number of participant slots allocated to your county as Attachment 1. Participant registrations



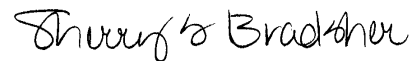
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will be accepted from families by county on a first come, first serve basis. All other families will be placed on a waiting list and notified as quickly as possible. If you are aware of families who did not receive the original postcard, they may contact NCKIDS toll free at 1-877-625-4374 and they will send them a brochure. Unfortunately, we will be unable to accommodate families awaiting licensure and/or adoptive families awaiting finalization.

You will also find a *Caring Spirit Award* nomination form as Attachment 2. We are soliciting nominations for excellence in foster and adoptive parenting. Agencies, children or individuals may submit nominations. Please distribute this flyer widely. Nominations are due by May 6, 2003.

Should you have any questions about the conference, please feel free to contact NC Kids Adoption and Foster Care Network at the *Light the Spark, Ignite the Spirit* special conference call line 1-877-NC Kids-4 with any questions or e-mail [j\\_preisler@uncg.edu](mailto:j_preisler@uncg.edu).

Sincerely,



Sherry S. Bradsher  
Deputy Director

cc: Pheon Beal  
JoAnn Lamm  
Children's Services Team Leaders

**CS-09-03**



AGENCY NAME	PARTICIPANT SLOTS
ALAMANCE COUNTY DSS	3
ALEXANDER COUNTY DSS	2
ALLEGHANY COUNTY DSS	2
ANSON COUNTY DSS	2
ASHE COUNTY DSS	2
AVERY COUNTY DSS	2
BEAUFORT COUNTY DSS	3
BERTIE COUNTY DSS	2
BLADEN COUNTY DSS	2
BRUNSWICK COUNTY DSS	3
BUNCOMBE COUNTY DSS	10
BURKE COUNTY DSS	3
CABARRUS COUNTY DSS	3
CALDWELL COUNTY DSS	3
CAMDEN COUNTY DSS	2
CARTERET COUNTY DSS	3
CASWELL COUNTY DSS	2
CATAWBA COUNTY DSS	3
CHATHAM COUNTY DSS	2
CHEROKEE COUNTY DSS	2
CHOWAN COUNTY DSS	2
CLAY COUNTY DSS	2
CLEVELAND COUNTY DSS	3
COLUMBUS COUNTY DSS	3
CRAVEN COUNTY DSS	3
CUMBERLAND COUNTY DSS	10
CURRITUCK COUNTY DSS	2
DARE COUNTY DSS	2
DAVIDSON COUNTY DSS	3
DAVIE COUNTY DSS	2
DUPLIN COUNTY DSS	3
DURHAM COUNTY DSS	10
EDGECOMBE COUNTY DSS	3
FORSYTH COUNTY DSS	10
FRANKLIN COUNTY DSS	2
GASTON COUNTY DSS	3
GATES COUNTY DSS	2
GRAHAM COUNTY DSS	2
GRANVILLE COUNTY DSS	2
GREENE COUNTY DSS	2
GUILFORD COUNTY DSS	10
HALIFAX COUNTY DSS	3
HARNETT COUNTY DSS	3
HAYWOOD COUNTY DSS	3
HENDERSON COUNTY DSS	3
HERTFORD COUNTY DSS	2
HOKE COUNTY DSS	2
HYDE COUNTY DSS	2
IREDELL COUNTY	3
JACKSON COUNTY DSS	2

AGENCY NAME	PARTICIPANT SLOTS
JOHNSTON COUNTY DSS	3
JONES COUNTY DSS	2
LEE COUNTY DSS	2
LENOIR COUNTY DSS	3
LINCOLN COUNTY DSS	2
MACON COUNTY DSS	2
MADISON COUNTY DSS	2
MARTIN COUNTY DSS	2
MCDOWELL COUNTY DSS	2
MECKLENBURG COUNTY DSS	10
MITCHELL COUNTY DSS	2
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DSS	2
MOORE COUNTY DSS	3
NASH COUNTY DSS	3
NEW HANOVER COUNTY DSS	10
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY DSS	2
ONSLOW COUNTY DSS	3
ORANGE COUNTY DSS	3
PAMLICO COUNTY DSS	2
PASQUOTANK COUNTY DSS	2
PENDER COUNTY DSS	2
PERQUIMANS COUNTY DSS	2
PERSON COUNTY DSS	2
PITT COUNTY DSS	3
POLK COUNTY DSS	2
RANDOLPH COUNTY DSS	3
RICHMOND COUNTY DSS	2
ROBESON COUNTY DSS	3
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY DSS	3
ROWAN COUNTY DSS	3
RUTHERFORD COUNTY DSS	3
SAMPSON COUNTY DSS	3
SCOTLAND COUNTY DSS	3
STANLY COUNTY DSS	2
STOKES COUNTY DSS	2
SURRY COUNTY DSS	3
SWAIN COUNTY DSS	2
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY DSS	2
TYRELL COUNTY DSS	2
UNION COUNTY DSS	3
VANCE COUNTY DSS	3
WAKE COUNTY DSS	10
WARREN COUNTY DSS	2
WASHINGTON COUNTY DSS	2
WATAUGA COUNTY DSS	2
WAYNE COUNTY DSS	3
WILKES COUNTY DSS	3
WILSON COUNTY DSS	3
YADKIN COUNTY DSS	2
YANCEY COUNTY DSS	2



# Caring Spirit Award

## Nomination Form

In preparation for the *Light the Spark, Ignite the Spirit* June 2003 conference in Greensboro, NC Kids Adoption & Foster Care Network is seeking nominations for award recipients. Nominees should stand out for their excellence in foster and/or adoptive parenting. Specific strengths may include such things as strong parenting skills, longevity, flexibility, advocacy, partnerships with agency staff and birth families, mentoring other foster/adoptive parents, recruitment participation, community service, etc. There will be a total of eight Caring Spirit Awards honoring one foster parent and one adoptive parent in four regions across the state.

This information is for the following category (check all that apply):

\_\_\_\_\_ Foster Parent(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ Adoptive Parent(s)

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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City

State

Zip

Nominee's Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination made by: Self \_\_\_\_\_ Child \_\_\_\_\_ Group/Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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City

State

Zip

Nominator's Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use back of this form or another sheet if necessary to describe why the individual or parents nominated above deserve this recognition award (150 words or less, please).

**Nominations must be received by May 6, 2003.** Mail to NC Kids/UNCG ~PO Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402-6170 ~ Fax to 877-625-4373 ~Email to [nckids@unc.edu](mailto:nckids@unc.edu)



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