

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES

P O BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

August 15, 2003

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: AREA EXECUTIVE STAFF, COUNTY DIRECTORS AND
CHILDREN'S SERVICES STAFF

FROM: DENISE CROSS, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: LINKING HEARTS COMMUNITY ADOPTION EVENT

REFERENCE: CHILDREN'S SERVICES

DISCUSSION:

We are pleased to announce the Linking Hearts Adoption Picnic! This event is a wonderful opportunity for our agency and community partners to provide prospective adoptive families with information about adoption and the children currently in need of permanent homes. In the past, the Linking Hearts events have resulted in creating new families for our children and increasing community awareness of the need for adoptive homes.

This year's event will be held on Friday, September 26, 2003, from 12:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Lions Club Park, Highway 63 South and Lions Club Drive, Rolla, Missouri. Tables will be set up to provide general information about adoption, and profiles of waiting children will be highlighted. Refreshments will be provided throughout the event.

Counties are encouraged to participate in this event by attending and displaying pictures and profiles of available children, or by sending profiles. For staff wishing to attend the event, please contact the 25th Circuit Adoption Unit at 573-368-2340 or 573-774-6121 to reserve table space. County offices unable to send staff may contact the 25th Circuit Adoption Unit in order to send profiles, pictures, etc., which will be displayed on tables.

Please invite adoptive families to this event, as this will allow them to see profiles of waiting children from around the state. They will also have the opportunity to talk with front line workers about the children with whom they work. Please feel free to use the attached flyer to invite adoptive families to this recruitment activity.

This has proven to be an enjoyable and informative adoption recruitment event for prospective families and adoption workers over the years. We strongly encourage your participation and support of this activity.

If you have questions about Linking Hearts, or wish to attend or send profiles, please contact the 25th Circuit Adoption Unit at 573-368-2340 or 573-774-6121.

DC:js

Attachments

Linking Hearts Building Families Letter
Linking Hearts Community Adoption Event Flyer
Linking Hearts Community Adoption Event Agenda
Adult Registration Form
Child Registration Form

The logo features two overlapping red hearts. The word "Linking" is written in a black cursive font across the left heart, and "Hearts" is written across the right heart. Below the hearts, the words "Building Families" are written in a larger, black cursive font.

*Linking Hearts
Building Families*

The Linking Hearts Adoption Picnic has been helping match children with families for over a decade. This year's event will be sponsored by the University of Missouri at Rolla InterFraternity Council, the Phelps County Community Partnership, the Adoption Exchange, and the 25th Circuit Adoption Unit. The event will be held on Friday, September 26th, at Lions Club Park, Highway 63 South and Lions Club Drive, Rolla, Missouri.

Children who have the goal of adoption and their social workers are invited to attend. Registration this year will be limited to thirty children. Adoptive parents, licensed and prospective, are invited to participate in activities with the children. Included in this packet is a flyer to be used as an invitation to these people in your caseloads and community.

An itinerary of events for the children and workers is enclosed. Directions may be obtained by visiting the Linking Hearts website at www.thecommunitypartnership.org/dfs. Also included in this packet are adult and child participant registration forms. These forms must be completed on every child and accompanying adult. Please return the forms to the Phelps County Division of Family Services no later than September 2, 2003.

If you have any questions, please call 25th Circuit Adoption Unit staff at 573-368-2340 or 573-774-6121.



***LINKING HEARTS
COMMUNITY ADOPTION EVENT***

***FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
5:00 -7:00 PM***

Lions Club Park

Highway 63 South

Rolla, MO

Adoptive parents, licensed and prospective, are encouraged to attend. This event offers an opportunity for families and children to meet and interact with each other in a fun and relaxed environment. Games, activities and a BBQ will be available for prospective adoptive families, social workers, and children who have the goal of adoption.

If you have questions or would like further information, contact the Division of Family Services at (573) 368-2340 or (573)774-6121. More information and directions can also be obtained at www.thecommunitypartnership.org/dfs

***SPONSORED BY
The Adoption Exchange
The 25th Circuit Adoption Unit
The UMR InterFraternity Council
The Phelps County Community Partnership***