

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

July 28, 2008

What's Inside:Information about
the Linking Hearts
Adoption Event in
Rolla, MOM E M O R A N D U M

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: LINKING HEARTS COMMUNITY ADOPTION EVENT

DISCUSSION:

We are pleased to announce the Linking Hearts Community Adoption Event. This event allows the Children's Division, The Phelps County Community Partnership and the InterFraternity Council and Pan-Hellenic Council of the Missouri University of Science and Technology to offer an opportunity for prospective adoptive families and children to meet and interact with each other in a fun and relaxed environment. The Linking Hearts event has been successful over the years in creating forever families for waiting children. In addition to creating forever families the event increases awareness of the need for adoptive homes for children in foster care.

This year's event will be held on Friday, September 19, 2008 at Lion's Club Park in Rolla, Missouri. Registration for children will begin at 1:00 p.m. at The Centre. Activities will include games, crafts, swimming, volleyball and basketball. Prospective adoptive parents are invited to join the festivities beginning at 5:00 p.m. and continuing until the completion of the closing ceremony starting at 7:00 p.m. There will be evening activities available for participants to engage in as well as a BBQ for all prospective adoptive parents, children and case workers in attendance. Registration forms and an agenda are attached. For directions to the Lion's Club Park and The Centre or for the opportunity to register on-line please visit the Linking Hearts Website at:

http://www.thepccp.org/our_programs/caring_communities/linking_hearts/

Counties are encouraged to participate in the event by registering children and inviting prospective adoptive parents to attend. Please use the attached flyer to invite 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, please contact the 25th Circuit Adoption Unit at 573-774-6121, 573-368-2340 or 417-967-4551 and ask for an adoption worker.

NECESSARY ACTION: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff.2. Complete appropriate attached forms for children and adults who will accompany children attending this event.3. Share attached Linking Hearts Recruitment Flyer with adoptive families within your counties.4. Post the attached Linking Hearts Recruitment Flyer throughout your community.5. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to the 25th Circuit Adoption Unit.	
PDS CONTACT: Emily Montgomery 573-522-8620 Emily.M.Montgomery@dss.mo.gov	PROGRAM MANAGER: Amy Martin 573-526-8040 Amy.L.Martin@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS: N/A	
ATTACHMENTS: Adult Registration Child Registration Agenda '08 Linking Hearts Flyer '08	
RELATED STATUTE: N/A	
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE: N/A	
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS: N/A	
PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PIP): N/A	
SACWIS REQUIREMENTS: N/A	