

# NECCO NEWS



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## ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

**As those who work in the social services field know, continuity of services to at-risk youth is often dependent on both economic and political factors.** Many government programs both need and deserve funding. However, states facing budget shortfalls like Kentucky, Georgia, and now Ohio must more look closely at where dollars are allocated. With the U.S. economy sinking to its lowest levels in decades and states scrambling to make up for major shortages in the budget, there is no better time than now to advocate for the populations we serve and those who serve them.

On February 12, 2009 NECCO participated in Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol in Frankfort, KY. Created by the Kentucky Youth Advocates and sponsored by Children's Alliance, Children's Advocacy Day brings together social services professionals and child care workers from all across the state to spend one day speaking directly with the lawmakers who help ensure that our kids' needs are put first. Leadership as well as direct care staff from each NECCO office in Kentucky participated in this event with over 160 Children's Alliance members. The NECCO contingency composed more than 25% of the total – a fact that is nothing less than impressive.



NECCO extends a very special thank you to all those who participated, and especially to Randy Thomas who organized and mobilized NECCO Nation to a stellar advocacy effort!

The Kentucky Youth Advocates are the authors of The Blueprint for Kentucky's Children. For more information on KYA or Children's Alliance, visit them online at <http://www.kyyouth.org/> and <http://www.childrensallianceky.org/>.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT :: Advocacy pays off in Kentucky & Georgia

Thanks to the advocacy efforts of NECCO, Children's Alliance, Kentucky Youth Advocates, and agencies like ours all across Kentucky, our message was heard all the way to the Governor's office! On May 22, Governor Beshear announced the restoration of a 7% rate cut that took place earlier this year. Effective June 1, 2009 the rate restoration brings per diem levels for youth in out of home care to the January 2009 levels and guarantees them through December 31, 2010. We are very grateful to the KY Legislature and Governor Beshear for their support.

After advocating for rate restoration in Georgia with letter campaigns and face-to-face meetings, the 2010 approved budget restored agency rates ensuring quality services for the children we serve. We would like to thank the legislators who made this possible. You have ensured another victory for Georgia's at-risk youth.

## NECCO WELCOMES GEORGIA PROGRAM



Jill Amos, Executive Division Director of Georgia

Since 2006 NECCO has acted as "sister agency" to Georgia SAFE (Safe Alternative Family Environments), a child placing agency with expertise in specialized foster care. In this capacity, NECCO has provided management services and support to the youth, foster parents, and staff of Georgia. Over the years we've learned a great deal about

that NECCO's management style and treatment philosophy work just as well for the youth and families of Georgia as they do for those of KY, OH, or WV. In addition, the family and service oriented nature of Georgia SAFE's corporate culture is a natural "fit" with that of NECCO.

Since 2006, the Georgia program has become NECCO in every way except in name. Not anymore! We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our southern teammates into the NECCO family! We are very pleased to share our corporate identity with them and look forward to more great things for the kids and families of Georgia!

that state's political and economic climate as well as the needs of its at risk youth populations. We have also learned

# HOT RODS DAY ::

## BOWLING GREEN SCORES A HOME RUN!

While at Children’s Advocacy Day, NECCO of Bowling Green invited **Representative Jim DeCesare** to “NECCO Night” with the Bowling Green Hot Rods! DeCesare came to throw the first pitch at the May 17 game, which served as a fundraiser for Bowling Green’s local kids’ fund. Staff, foster parents, and youth came out for a fun filled day at the park where our Bowling Green office raised \$603 in ticket sales! Thank you to all who bought and sold tickets! NECCO would also like to send a special thanks to **Julie McCoy** of team Bowling Green who spearheaded this event!



Team BG with Representative DeCesare at CAD



JumboTron Sign for the Game



Representative DeCesare Throwing out the First Pitch



### SOMERSET MOTHER’S DAY

**Misty Wade** and team Somerset put on their gardening gloves and made some special mother’s day gifts! The kids decorated flower pots then planted some wonderful spring flowers for their foster and/or biological moms.



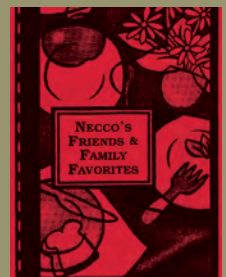
### PADUCAH FATHER’S FUN DAY

**Rhonda Riley** and team Paducah have been involved with Father’s Fun Day for 3 consecutive years. Hosted by the Community Collaboration for Children, this event is part of CCC’s Fatherhood Initiative grant to increase awareness of the importance of fathers and father figures in kids’ lives. Held on May 16th, local sports figures provided tips and awarded prizes throughout the day.

### BOWLING GREEN HOME COOKIN’!

Now you can get a taste of homemade directly from the community of Bowling Green, KY! NECCO of Bowling Green is proud to launch their very own cookbook comprised of some great recipes and lots of fun ideas! At \$9 each, these cookbooks would make a great little gift for someone else – or even a gift to yourself!

*All proceeds go directly to the kids' fund in Bowling Green.* To order your cookbook, please contact **Kim Bland** in the Bowling Green office at [270] 781.8112 or via e-mail at [kbland@necco.org](mailto:kbland@necco.org) and she will coordinate shipping arrangements with you.



## JOURNEY HOME ::

### ASHLAND OFFICE PROVIDES A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Although foster care is a vital service that provides a safe haven for abused and neglected children, it can also be very traumatic for the child that is forced to leave the only home they've known – no matter how horrendous living conditions may be. Unless you've experienced foster care yourself, chances are it's pretty hard to comprehend what that must be like.

**Journey Home** provides a unique opportunity to simulate the foster care experience by taking participants on a day-long excursion through the places, the people, and the events that surround a child's entrance into foster care. For the second consecutive year, NECCO is proud to be a co-sponsor and contributor to the Journey Home project. Program Director, **Kelly Adkins** and Treatment Director, **Jennifer Graham** of the NECCO Ashland office worked hand in hand with the projects' organizer, **Lea Ann Gollihue**, director of *For Jamie's Sake*, and other non-profit and community sponsors to bring this event to life.

NECCO News is pleased to showcase a guest article written by NECCO case manager **Greg Thompson**. In his article, Greg recounts the day's events including details on tour stops, panel participants and community feedback. We encourage you to read Greg's article in its entirety by visiting our website at [www.necco.org](http://www.necco.org) and checking out our "In the News" section.

To learn more about the Journey Home project, contact *For Jamie's Sake* at [606] 327.5511 or [forjamiessake@alltel.net](mailto:forjamiessake@alltel.net).



Trooper Gollihue escorting a participant to her "new home."

## BOWLING GREEN HOSTS ITS 2ND ANNUAL FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION DINNER

Foster parents from the Bowling Green service area were honored on May 26, 2009 for their outstanding service and dedication to youth in foster care. The event took place in conjunction with national Foster Care Awareness Month. The Bowling Green team would like to thank everyone who attended and congratulate the winners of the Hobbs Principles Awards for 2009. Check our website for a list of this year's big winners!

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT :: LINDSEY WOODWARD

Bowling Green Case Manager **Lindsey Woodward** (pictured middle) graduated on May 15, 2009 from Western Kentucky University with a Master of Social Work degree! Program Director **Kelly Delaney** (left) and therapist **Julie McCoy** (right), attended the ceremony. Congratulations Lindsey, we are very proud of you!



## FAMILY SPOTLIGHT :: PADUCAH PARENTING SHOWCASES STAND OUT FOSTER PARENTS

In its May edition, Paducah Parenting & Family Magazine\* published a three page article featuring stand out foster parents **Bruce and Wanda Fogle** and **Jared and Jennifer Willoughby**. The Fogles have been fostering for many years and have accepted nearly 50 children into their lives during that time. With grown children of their own, the Fogles considered adopting to fill their "empty nest." However, they chose foster parenting first to discover how they could best provide love and support to a child, and meet their familial needs at the same time. Wanda says, "I like to have kids around me. I am excited to be able to help someone and it keeps me young."

Another foster family, **Jared and Jennifer Willoughby**, love what they do to help children in need. "Being a foster parent is an opportunity to give back to the youth of the community. We had abilities and resources as parents so we wanted to help kids," they told Paducah Parenting & Family magazine.

We are very proud to have foster parents like the Fogles and the Willoughbys as part of our extended NECCO family – and happy that they agreed to share their experiences with the community! Thank you to these wonderful families for all you do!



Bruce & Wanda Fogle

\*Paducah Parenting & Family Magazine is a free publication available at over 2,700 locations in the Purchase Area of Kentucky. For more information, visit them on the web at [www.paducahparenting.com](http://www.paducahparenting.com).

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NECCO News accepts written contributions for materials 350 words or less and reserves the right to edit any and all submissions. To learn more or to request a printed copy, please contact Dee Necco at [dnecco@carvaka.com](mailto:dnecco@carvaka.com).

NECCO News is proudly published three times per year and produced entirely in-house.

### IMAGINE A FAMILY WITH 900 KIDS.

At NECCO we serve approximately 900 youth on a daily basis. Imagine feeding them, clothing them, taking them to the doctor, soccer practice, and dance lessons and more importantly, guiding them to be productive members of society. Raising a family of this size requires about \$54,000 a day. It's a big job, but with our team of foster parent partners we are able to provide guidance through safe and loving homes. Believe us, it's worth it.

**YOU CAN HELP.** NECCO welcomes volunteers who have time and love to give. You can also be a mentor to a child that needs direction. Don't have time to give? Consider a gift to NECCO's **FOSTER THE FUTURE FUND**. This fund provides extra clothing, supplies, and money for outings or gifts throughout the year. To make a donation contact **J.P. Montgomery** at : 503-A Darby Creek Road, Lexington, KY 40509, phone - [859] 264.8796. You can even specify an office near you.

"NO ONE HAS EVER BECOME POOR BY GIVING." ~ ANNE FRANK

**NECCO**  
The Power of Family



[www.necco.org](http://www.necco.org)

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