

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

➔ FREE Live Webinar Thursday, March 16th



Providing high quality training opportunities for parents, as well as professionals in child welfare and community supporters is a charge APAC's training team is proud to deliver. APAC's LIVE Webinars are free of charge. There is however, a

nominal fee for those professionals seeking CEU certification. This month's webinar is presented by Joy O'Neal of the Red Barn. Her presentation offers 1.5 CE credits. You'll gain an in-depth overview of the many benefits equine therapy offers, how to find a suitable program near you, and much more.



Brittany Popham serves as Children's Aid Society of Alabama's APAC Adoptive Family Recruiter. Photo Credit: Arema Granger, February 23, 2023

MATCHING IN MARCH: FINDING FOREVER

By Arema Granger, CAS Marketing Coordinator

The goal of foster care is working toward family reunification. That goal is not always achieved, and as a result, over 200 children across the state of Alabama are awaiting the possibility of joining a forever family. Brittany Popham has worked with Children's Aid Society of Alabama for five years. She currently serves as the Alabama Pre/Post Adoption Connections (APAC) Adoptive Family Recruiter.

"People often think adoption is an expensive process, and they've told me that it has kept them from learning more about adoption in Alabama. When we actually get to speak with people and let them know that adopting a child from Alabama foster care is free, they're shocked! We really work with people and walk them through the entire adoption process."

The process begins with **Trauma Informed Partnering for Safety & Permanence (TIPS)** group classes. These classes are required for anyone interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent in Alabama. Our TIPS classes will begin this spring in the cities of Birmingham, Montgomery, Huntsville and Mobile. You must be over 19 years of age to foster or adopt a child, you can be a single parent or married. If married, your marriage must be of at least 3 years duration. Contact Brittany for details about these upcoming classes: bpopham@childrensaid.org.

"We are really in need of more loving families. When the Covid-19 pandemic began, there was slightly more interest in adoption. Now that things have started to get back to normal...interest has kind of dwindled."

CAS believes that children who grow up in safe, stable homes with loving families or permanent supports have the greatest chance of lifelong success. Whether children are reunified with families, adopted through foster or kinship care, we're dedicated to helping our waiting children join families that are strong and well supported. Please tell your friends and keep in touch to see when **TIPS classes** will be offered in your town.

➔ Camp APAC Applications Are Open NOW!



Camp APAC is an annual event for adopted children ages 12 to 18, along with their siblings (birth and foster siblings living in the same household) who are connected to DHR (i.e. at least one camp applicant must be adopted from

foster care). This unforgettable experience will be hosted at the beautiful Camp Chandler in Wetumpka, AL. Children in permanent custody of DHR with a plan of adoption by their current placement are also eligible to attend. Limited slots will also be available for non-DHR connected families at a cost of \$175 for these 4 great days of fun! Visit the Camp APAC FAQ for more information. If you have any questions, please contact our camp coordinator, **Valerie Anderson**, vanderson@childrensaid.org.











➔ Sponsor a Grad in Alabama's Foster Care



Our Annual Graduation Celebration will honor Alabama's graduates in foster care on May 6, 2023. With your help, we'll gift our graduates with a brand new duffel bag, filled with new school supplies, toiletries, linens, and household items.

Necessities for the next milestone on their journey to a successful life of independence. Your donation of \$100 will gift one graduate with this thoughtful gift. We need your help to reach our \$10,000 goal to present 100 graduates with this "Grad Bag." Please make your secure donation today.

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14  Birmingham Area TIPS classes. 	15	16  Webinar @ 11:30 am! 	17	18
19	20	21  World Social Work Day!	22	23  Make sure you're registered for Camp APAC!	24  Madison County Dream Council Meeting	25  Madison County ILP Regional Meeting
26	27 	28	29	30	31	 Graduation Campaign 2023!

"Life becomes harder for us when we live for others, but it also becomes richer and happier."

-Albert Schweitzer


SOCIAL WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL


Celebrating Over 100 Years
Children's Aid Society of Alabama
of Professional Services

March 14, 2023

Madison County AFG

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month

6:00 pm, in the Wesley Center at First United Methodist Church

(FREE to attend, childcare is provided)
Contact Kendra Alley, kalley@childrensaid.org



March 16, 2023

Statewide Virtual AFG

Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month

8:00 pm, a private Zoom link will be sent by email to interested parties.

Contact Buddy Renahan, brenahan@childrensaid.org to be added to the email list.



Stay Connected.
Follow CAS on
Social Media!

