



# FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

awareness. advocacy.education

BARRY COUNTY, MI

“TO ELIMINATE AND PREVENT ALL FORMS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT THROUGH AWARENESS, ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION.”

## NEWSLETTER OCT.-DEC.

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2017

### MONTH OF OCT.

ADHD Awareness Month

AIDS Awareness Month

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Bullying Prevention Month

Cyber Security Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Positive Attitude Month

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

Rett Syndrome Awareness Month

Selective Mutism Awareness

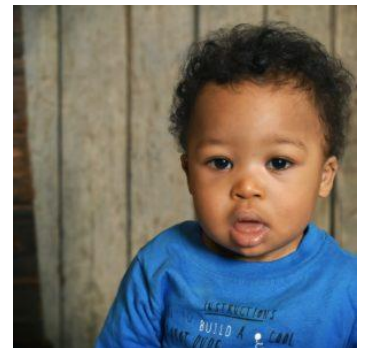
### WHAT'S GOING ON IN OCTOBER

As you can see, there is a lot of important topics we need to raise awareness for October and November. Since there is so many, we had to choose to talk about one for each month. BUT, all of these topics are equally important, so please take the time to learn more about them and raise awareness.

#### Down Syndrome

Did you know that, Down syndrome occurs when an individual has a full or partial extra copy of chromosome 21?

This additional genetic material alters the course of development and causes the characteristics associated with Down syndrome. There are three types of Down syndrome: trisomy 21 (nondisjunction) accounts for 95% of cases, translocation accounts for about 4%, and mosaicism accounts for about 1%.



Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition. Approximately one in every 700 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome – about 6,000 each year. Down syndrome occurs in people of all races and economic levels. The incidence of births of children with Down syndrome increases with the age of the mother, but due to higher fertility rates in younger women, 80% of children with Down syndrome are born to women under 35 years of age. People with Down syndrome attend school, work, participate in decisions that



Halloween is on Thursday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> 2017

affect them, have meaningful relationships, vote and contribute to society in many wonderful ways. All people with Down syndrome experience cognitive delays, but the effect is usually mild to moderate and is not indicative of the many strengths and talents that each individual possesses. Quality educational programs, a stimulating home environment, good health care and positive support from family, friends and the community enable people with Down syndrome to lead fulfilling and productive lives. (Source: [www.ndss.org](http://www.ndss.org))

## MONTH OF NOV.

Adoption Awareness Month

National Career Development Month

National Complex Regional Pain Syndrome/Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (CRPS) Awareness Month

National Runaway Prevention Month

Native American Heritage Month

## MONTH OF DEC.

National Impaired Driving

### Adoption

Why adopt a child?

“Without my son, I wouldn’t be where I am. I probably wouldn’t even be here today if it wasn’t for adoption.” - Ted, adoptive father

A countless number of people feel exactly the same as Ted: that life is meaningless without the gift of becoming a parent. For that reason, thousands of people every year choose to adopt. And like Ted, without adoption, many of these peoples’ lives would remain unfulfilled.

Before considering adopting a child, many couples attempt infertility treatments, such as in vitro fertilization (IVF). Some find success, but many do not. In fact, according to the American Pregnancy Association, only 30 to 35 percent of women under 35 years old will become pregnant though IVF. As women get older, their chances of success decrease dramatically. Many couples whose first attempts are unsuccessful try again and again. With each failed attempt, more money is lost, and sometimes the woman suffers mental and physical effects from the treatments. They may reach a point where they just can’t do it anymore, financially, physically and emotionally.

Eventually, many couples decide that their dreams are to become parents, not pregnant. They realize that raising a child together is what’s important, and whether that is through pregnancy or adoption doesn’t matter.

So, why adopt a child?

Because life offers so many memorable moments, sometimes it is hard to realize how special they are without a child there to remind us. The joy a father sees in his son’s eyes when he attends his first baseball game, or the excitement a mom sees on her daughter’s face the first time she sees the top of a cloud from an airplane window – these are moments made special because of the presence of a child. Adoption has given and continues to give people like Ted



the opportunity to lead fulfilling, meaningful lives alongside their children, and in turn, provides children opportunities in life once thought unachievable (Source: [www.americanadoptions.com](http://www.americanadoptions.com)).

## EVENTS FOR THIS QUARTER

- We will have a *Kinship Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 6.30pm* at the Enrichment Center, Sharpe Hall. RSVP required.
- Kinship Christmas Party on *Monday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 6.30pm* at the Enrichment Center, Sharpe Hall. RSVP required.

## DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR:

### - KINSHIP SUPPORT PROGRAM

If you are a family member caring for family member children, you are a kinship family. If you would like to have additional information contact [mary@familysupportbarry.com](mailto:mary@familysupportbarry.com) or 269-945-6313.

### - PARENTS EDUCATOR PROGRAM

If you or someone you know, needs extra help with parenting issues, we are here to assist you. If you would like to have additional information contact [mary@familysupportbarry.com](mailto:mary@familysupportbarry.com) or 269-945-6313.

### - CRIB PROGRAM

Safe sleep for infants is extremely important. If you or someone you know, can't afford a safe sleep environment, contact us for more information about crib, toddler bed or pack'n play:

[karen@familysupportbarry.com](mailto:karen@familysupportbarry.com) or 269-945-5439.

Check out our homepage [familysupportbarry.com](http://familysupportbarry.com) and like us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Family-Support-Center-of-Barry-County-149603201753499/> .



*Have a great Holiday season! Your Family Support Center Team*



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