

Shopping Your Closet

For those of us who never bought into rampant consumerism, the “New Frugality” movement has us whacking our heads and saying, “Duh!” a lot. We trendsetters already know how to bake and decorate our kids’ birthday cakes (hint: Barbie, gummy sharks, red food coloring), score at Value Village, add oil to our 27-year-old German import and call the *good* repairman to fix the dishwasher that needs a \$25 part.

But for those of us who have always lived within our means, the real head-scratcher is the concept of “shopping your closet.” Really? If you love it, you buy it and you wear it, right? Every so often you experiment with accessories to freshen it up, but isn’t the point of buying a garment to wear it?

Apparently not. In fact, according to my research, the failure to use resources available to us extends to our kitchens, our linen closets, and our workplaces.

And so, in the spirit of the New Frugality and Shopping Your Closet, here are a few tips on using the *Connections*

newsletter, a resource we at Foster Parent College make available to you gratis.

1. **Send it out.** Really, we encourage you to forward it to your resource parents, or print it out and distribute it at meetings and in-house training sessions.
2. **Steal articles** you like and add them to your own newsletters, but please give us credit for them.
3. **Print out and share** articles that pique your interest (again, please give us credit).
4. **Tell us** what interests your resource parents and we’ll write about that.
5. **Tell us** what you want your resource parents to learn about and we’ll write about that, too.
6. **Nominate YOUR resource parents** for our Everyday Heroes column.

What’s Happening

The SocialLearning.com 2009 Spring Catalog has been mailed. If you did not receive a copy, visit SocialLearning.com’s [Catalog Center](#) to request a catalog. The online catalog can be alternatively [downloaded from here](#).

May is National Foster Care Month. If you would like to promote your event in the May *Connections* or *Solutions*, email your notice to us by April 10.

The FPC Direct Access Program provides a direct portal from your website to your parents’ personal home pages on www.FosterParentCollege.com, allowing them one-click access to their training units. It takes only minutes for our webmaster and yours to set this up. Contact us today to learn more.

Nominate Everyday Heroes for the *Connections Everyday Heroes* column. Email lisa@northwestmedia.com with the names and phone numbers of foster parents in your program who exemplify excellence.

We invite agencies to submit news for this column. This is your space to announce new programs, agency successes, conferences, events and trainings that are of interest to *Solutions* readers.

Please email your brief announcement to Lisa Siegle at lisa@northwestmedia.com by the 15th of the month for the following month’s edition.

Free Webinars Explore FPC

Webinars for April are hosted by Anna Bradley, training and support.

April Webinars will:

- ▶ Take you on a tour of the Web site
- ▶ Answer questions about online training
- ▶ Show how an agency can manage their caregivers’ online training
- ▶ Demonstrate accountability through program reports and tracking tools
- ▶ Show how to communicate with your caregivers as a group or individually and how to encourage group participation
- ▶ Answer questions about how to incorporate an online program to complement existing in-house programs

To sign up for a Webinar:

email – anna@northwestmedia.com

call – 541-343-6636