

Northwest Media Gets Grant for Pre-Service Training Project

Northwest Media, Inc., parent company of Foster Parent College.com, has received a three-year \$1.2 million grant to complete and evaluate a Web-enhanced pre-service training program for prospective resource parents. The Phase II SBIR grant (#2 R44 HD054032-02) was awarded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development.

The grant will be used by Northwest Media in collaboration with the Institute for Human Services of Columbus, OH, to develop an online version of the IHS standardized pre-service training curriculum in current use throughout the United States.

In Phase 1 Northwest Media and Ohio IHS developed the first course, Child Abuse and Neglect. The feasibility study showed that the interactive multimedia delivery was in fact more effective than the classroom delivery in conveying knowledge; it also received higher user satisfaction ratings than the classroom training; and it was slightly more effective than the classroom training in increasing empathy for birth parents. Child Abuse and Neglect is a well-regarded part of the Foster Parent College.com program.

In Phase 2, Northwest Media and IHS will develop the remaining 11 training modules and evaluate the entire 12-module training program.

The Canadian Foster Family Association Endorses Foster Parent College

The Canadian Foster Family Association Board of Directors has elected to endorse Foster Parent College as an outstanding training resource for Canadian foster families.

In a letter by Sheila Durnford, President of the Canadian Foster Family Association (CFFA), to Lee White, President of FPC, Durnford wrote, "Our decision reflects our belief that the quality of training provided on your site makes it a valuable tool for foster parents in coping with issues presented by the children or youth in their care. We find the

courses relevant, informative, engaging and easy to use." Durnford continued, "In summary, we feel confident recommending Foster Parent College to Foster Parents and hope that many will take advantage of this service."

The CFFA is a national organization with a mandate to speak as a collective voice for foster families throughout the country, with a primary goal to enhance the quality of care provided to children and in Canada. For more information or to donate, visit www.canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca.

Just Ask Cynthia

This is Customer Service maven Cynthia Hostetter's monthly attempt to demystify your life. Got a question? Email it to cynthia@northwestmedia.com.

Also, Cynthia is ironing out details for a series of brief mini-Webinars on specific topics relevant to agencies.

Q: How can I send an email to all my Foster Parent College group members?

A. At your Group Home page, click on the "Members" tab and then click on the "Email Group" tab.

The system defaults to "All Members." This means the email will be sent to all registered members in that group. If you want to change it, for example, to send an email only to all Trainees, or all Administrators, uncheck the "all members" box, and then check the appropriate boxes.

Important! If you have subgroups and want your email to go to members in those groups, be sure to click "same type of members in subgroups under this group." Click "preview list" on the far right of the screen to see who this email will be sent to. A copy of the email will be sent to you.

What's Happening

Yes, you CAN reprint articles from *Solutions* and *Connections*. Please notify us of your plans, and on the article state the story is "Reprinted with permission from Foster Parent College (*newsletter title*)." Contact Lisa at press@northwestmedia.com.

Follow us on Twitter at FosterCollege for updates, offers and the occasional pearl of wisdom.

October 18-24 is Foster Family Week in Canada. The week is set aside to honor foster families throughout Canada.

Everyday Heroes is now Champions of Children. We'd like to share the story of foster parents, CASAs, volunteers and agency staff whose efforts on behalf of displaced children are above the cut. Please email your nominations to Lisa at press@northwestmedia.com. Thanks.

Advanced Parenting Workshops begin Oct. 6, so sign up your parents today. Workshops are available on Anger and Lying.