



## 19th Annual Education Conference takes shape

FSFAPA's 19th Annual Education Conference will be held June 19-21 at the Orlando Hilton. If the location sounds familiar, it is the same location as 2013.

There will be some tweaks to the schedule this year. One significant change from prior years is on Sunday with the "main event" awards ceremony and keynote moving to a breakfast (8:30-10 a.m.) rather than lunch. This is to allow families to spend the rest of the day - Fathers' Day together.

The tentative schedule has registration opening at 10:30 a.m. on Friday and the training sessions at 1:30 p.m. At 3:30 the FSFAPA Quarterly Meeting (including board nominations) will take place. There will be a reception at 6 p.m.

Saturday breakfast starts at 8 and morning training sessions at 9:15 and 11. Lunch will feature the Nex Gen Band and a keynote speaker, followed by training at 2:30 p.m. and at 4:15 there is a networking "Meet your

RVP" session and Duffel distribution. There is also a teen "rap session" set for 9-11 p.m. that evening.

Sunday's breakfast is the last official event of the conference.

Childcare will be handled a little differently this year, with families registering online directly with the childcare provider to help ensure all information is received by the provider.

Log on to [FloridaFAPA.org](http://FloridaFAPA.org) for updates.

### Adoption Conference May 21-23

Featuring Susan Badeau at Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort. Sue writes and speaks extensively on topics related permanency, trauma, children with special needs and family engagement.

Scholarships & childcare available for Adoptive Parents; Saturday is free for adoptive parents. For more information log on to [FloridaFAPA.org](http://FloridaFAPA.org).



### Duffels 4 Kids Walk

This year's walk is May 16 (9 a.m.) at Kenneth Parker Amphitheater in Port Orange (Volusia County.) This walk is the primary fundraiser for our Duffels 4 Kids program, so please take part! The fee is \$10 for foster parents and \$5 per child (\$25 for regular adult walkers). We also accept "virtual walkers" if you can't be in Port Orange. ([Duffels4Kids.org](http://Duffels4Kids.org))

## Advocacy Day/Children's Week upon us

FSFAPA's focus on Advocacy Day (April 14) during Children's Week has been diluted a little by the emergence of the "Rally in Tally" prior to the legislative session, however we still expect a strong showing, a Nex Gen Band performance and our Spring Quarterly Meeting.

As has become custom, there will be "storybook villages" (multiple this year) for legislators to read to and interact with the children and many opportunities for parents to interact with the legislators to share your concerns (and thanks for past progress.)

FSFAPA is working on developing

some information sheets to help focus our message and efforts. We plan to have that information and possibly some "leave behind" sheets that reflect the association's position on how the legislators could best help us improve the child welfare system and increase the number of positive outcomes.

## Meet our newest RVP

We're thrilled to introduce Dr. Thomas Croom as our new North Central Florida Regional Vice President. Tom is CEO and President of Go Foster!, a 501c3 organization created to help recruit, support and research foster parents and an adjunct instructor at FSU and Tallahassee Community College (political science, American government and public policy).

Tom has a PhD in Political Science from FSU. His dissertation work was on the creation of Adoption policy, and it's spread across the United States in the late 19th and early 20th century.

He also brings experience in political campaign work, both as a local government candidate and some consulting.

He and his wife Sherri, helped form their local Heart Gallery and Sherri served as its president for the first couple years. They are active members of our local Foster Parent Association (TAFAPA) and assisted in the recent elections to help the current leadership get started.

Tom and Sherri have 3 adopted children and currently have a foster child they hope to adopt. They have fostered 15 children in total over the past 7+ years ranging in age from 2 days to 18 years old and including one pregnant teenager.



Croom

## FSFAPA News and Notes

**H.Wynn Scholarship:** The Florida State Foster/Adoptive Parent Association H. Wynn Scholarship Fund is currently accepting applications for its 2015 scholarship to be awarded at the June conference. The scholarship recognizes an outstanding foster, adopted or relative-placement child currently enrolled in school, and features an essay on how foster care changed their lives. For applications and qualification info, log on to [FloridaFAPA.org](http://FloridaFAPA.org).

**FSFAPA to be the Face of Teen Foster Parent Recruiting:** At a recent DCF task force event, FSFAPA was asked to take a prominent role in the increased effort to locate and recruit foster homes specifically for teens in care. The effort is in the formative stages, but the plan currently calls for the development of a speakers bureau of "role model" teen homes and a series of summer events featuring the Nex Gen Band - which we feel represents our teens very well!

### Fernandina was Fabulous:

Our Winter Quarterly Meeting and Mini Conference in Fernandina was a huge success. In fact the biggest issue was that childcare grew so large it was forced to move to a larger location away from the main event. A special thanks to FSS and Nassau County FAPA for such great hospitality!

### Forth Sundays are 'Parks & Pals' at Silver Springs:

A day full of activities can be found at Silver Springs State Park (Ocala) on the Fourth Sunday of each month. Email [Nicky.Aiken@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Nicky.Aiken@dep.state.fl.us) for a "dash pass" for free entry (or search for it on [FloridaFAPA.org](http://FloridaFAPA.org).) Activities include the Ranger Program, discounted canoe, kayak and boat rentals, cornhole, pack walks, as well as reduced prices for glass bottom boat trips and museum admission.

**October Ideas?** Suggestion for a location or topics for our Fall Mini Conference, email them to [petkovij@me.com](mailto:petkovij@me.com).

# Duffels For Kids




## 2015 DUFFELS FOR KIDS WALK

Every day, a child in care transitions into another home without proper luggage. Help the Florida State Foster/Adoptive Parent Association break the cycle! Support the 2015 Duffels for Kids Walk on May 16 in Port Orange, Florida. We're ensuring that EVERY foster youth has a duffel to call their own... because trash bags shouldn't be a substitute for luggage.

**May 16, 2015  
9 a.m.**

**Kenneth Parker Amphitheater, 2001 City Center Circle, Port Orange, FL  
\$25 (regular walker); \$10 (foster parent); \$5 (child)**

**[www.duffels4kids.org](http://www.duffels4kids.org)**

**Featuring a special performance by the NEX GEN Band**



## 2015 FSFAPA 19th Annual Education Conference

Come join us for our FSFAPA Annual Education Conference!

There will be workshops for the adults, NEXGEN for the teens and childcare.

We look forward to seeing you there!!

\* **June 19-21, 2015**

**Keynote Speaker: Secretary Carroll**

**Orlando Hilton Hotel**

**Orlando, Florida**

**Registration: \$175 Adults, \$100 NexGen, \$50  
Childcare (includes 3 meals and snack)**

**Rooms: \$119/night**

**Internet can be purchased separately or with a  
resort package**

**For additional information go to  
<http://floridafapa.org> or call 305-213-5527**



Scholarships available for kinship and adoptive parents (who are no longer fostering)

DCF scholarship available through your CBC

**Florida State Foster/Adoptive  
Parent Association  
4100 Okeechobee Blvd  
West Palm Beach, FL 33409  
1-866-913-0977**

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