International Foster Care Organisation
www.ifco.info

Laan van Meerdervoort 70 2517 AN Den Haag, The Netherlands
Tel: +3170 346 2153 Fax: +3170 427 9242 E-mail: ifco@ifco.info

IFCO E-Newsletter / 2
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IFCO invites you to translate this newsletter into your own language and send it further to contacts in your country and elsewhere who may not yet be IFCO members (membership details are on the www.ifco.info web site) - thank you!

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1. IFCO's Jubilee Year

As you probably know, IFCO was created around this time, exactly 25 years ago. The foundations for what is known and cherished worldwide today as IFCO were laid in the months of August and September 1981. Therefore, the time period starting now and ending in August 2007 will be IFCO's **Jubilee Year**. We are waiting for you to send birthday wishes to IFCO, and also to receive your comments and reactions, your nostalgic memories of the past of IFCO or your hopes for the future of IFCO. Your reactions and suggestions will be published either on the website or in the Jubilee Informer which is currently being prepared, or used as promotional material during the coming Jubilee Year.

2. IFCO Conference update

IFCO WORLD CONFERENCE IN NEW ZEALAND - FEBRUARY 11-16 2007 – less than 5 months to go!

LATEST NEWS

The programme is in the final stages of completion - thank you for the huge number of submissions received from many parts of the world!
There will be two plenary sessions each day, with Keynote Speakers confirmed as follows:

Judge Mick Brown (NZ): retired Principal Youth Court Judge, Maori, and raised in foster care

Donna Meehan (Australia): fostered, adopted, educated – and isolated from her Aboriginal roots

Professor Emily Jean McFadden (USA): over 30 years experience working with families as a foster parent, kinship carer, therapist, consultant, trainer, author and advocate

Sandra Alofivae (NZ): Samoan, a Families Commissioner with many years of legal experience specialising in family and youth law, and community service

Panel on Professionalism: Chaired by Jill Worrall (NZ) and including Andrea Warman (BAAF / UK), Paul Delfabbro (Australia), Fredrik Ingvarsson (IFCO / Sweden) & Mike Munnelly (NZ Department of Child, Youth & Family)

Judge Peter Boshier (NZ): Principal Family Court Judge, and culturally appreciative

As well as a **wide-ranging Youth Programme** there will be 22 workshops per day (on Monday 12th, Tuesday13th and Thursday15th). Please go to the website for a selection of workshops and papers that have been accepted - www.ifconz07.org.nz
You may also access lots of other information and registration forms plus details of who needs visas and details of a local travel agent who may be able to help you with your travel and onward NZ tour arrangements.

And don't forget to register by 10th November 2006 to qualify for Early Bird discounts.

3. IFCO gains United Nations Consultative Status

In its 25th year IFCO has been granted a new title as an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the **Economic and Social Council of the United Nations**. Such status will give us a unique opportunity to stand for the Rights of the Child, and particularly the Right of the Child to grow up in a family environment. The scope of the ECOSOC will enable us to defend our vision and objectives in a variety of issues and will give us a chance to promote foster care and family-based care worldwide.

4. Training and Development Bureau

More and more IFCO is asked to deliver consultancy and training in the development of alternative care options for children without parental care. IFCO is expert in family based care and how to develop strategies to set up foster care or deliver foster care related training to a range of professionals, foster carers and young people. To give an answer to this request we are developing our Training and Development Bureau.
IFCO members can register with this bureau if they are willing to share their knowledge and experience as international short or long term experts, consultants and trainers in projects IFCO is developing or is involved with.
Members can show their interest by sending an email to ifco@ifco.info. More information will then be sent to you.

At present we are developing a project for Africa in relation to the attached HIV/AIDS statement and offer for support in developing strategies to give a family based answer to the growing number of orphans and vulnerable children. In particular

French-speaking trainers experienced in foster care training are asked to send us their interest but English speakers are also welcome.
We are also looking for long and short term experts with experience in project work in Central and Eastern Europe.

The bureau is a service for members only and can give an extra asset to your membership. As in our conferences, where everybody working in the foster care field may be speakers, the bureau is open for all experts. IFCO considers professional and life experience equally valuable for sharing. We therefore look for experienced foster carers, youth with care experience and professional workers and researchers among our membership.

5. UN CRC Day of General Discussion

IFCO Youth Chair Emmanuel Sherwin was asked by the Inter Agency Group to be the Lead Youth Facilitator for the group of young people from around the world who will be attending the UN CRC Day of General Discussion in Geneva on September 15. Please see the attached Press Releases which are in English, Spanish and French and also click on http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=10148. This is linked from: http://www.crin.org/resources/treaties/discussion2006.asp.

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You are welcome to use any or all of this information in your own newsletters, magazines or e-publications as long as you acknowledge IFCO as the source.

Please visit IFCO's web site www.ifco.info regularly for lots of updated news and information!

The IFCO e-newsletter will be sent each month to all paid-up IFCO members whose email addresses we have – please keep us updated if you change your email address.

Your contributions are invited for the next issue! Please send them by email to Maria at ifco@ifco.info by September 30.

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