

Northeast Ohio Adoption Services  
Melissa Tharpe, Editor

March 2008 Edition

## College Scholarships

When you hear the words “college” or “college tuition” do you exhibit any of the following symptoms:  
sweating, shortness of breath, racing pulse, fainting, listlessness?



If so, stress no longer! College scholarships are the answer.

Generally, students receive scholarships based on academic achievement, athletics, or financial need. However, there are scholarships available for just about every activity or interest. If a child is interested in a specific major, there is probably a scholarship for it. Some employers such as McDonalds, offers scholarships to employees.

There are also college scholarship books that you can check out at the library. These books are usually updated yearly with new scholarships or updated contact information.

Specifically, there **IS** money for those children who have spent time in the US foster care system. The requirements differ, but there is money out there to help fund your child’s education.

College does not have to be a dream. It can be an exciting (and affordable) reality.

*Scholarships specifically for adopted/foster children:*

\*Orphan Foundation of America- [www.orphan.org/scholarships.html](http://www.orphan.org/scholarships.html)

\*National Foster Parent Association-  
<http://www.nfpainc.org/content/?page=YOUTHSCOLARSHIP>

\*Lifetime Adoption Foundation- [http://www.lifetimefoundation.org/adoption\\_scholarship.html](http://www.lifetimefoundation.org/adoption_scholarship.html)

\*Casey Family Programs-  
<http://www.casey.org/MediaCenter/MediaKit/HigherEdBackgrounder.htm>

*General college scholarship searches:*

\*Fast Web- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

\*College Scholarship- [www.collegescholarship.org](http://www.collegescholarship.org)

\*College Board- [http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch\\_ss/welcome.jsp](http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp)

\*College Access-[www.collegeaccess.org](http://www.collegeaccess.org)





## Kristan Needs A Home

**Kristan** is a fifteen-year-old ninth grade girl who is sometimes “girly” and sometimes “a tomboy.” She imagines a relaxing home where she could curl up with a good book or TV show for fun--or sometimes go out walking or to the mall. She describes herself as being kind, funny, smart, and fun. In school her favorite subject is reading.



Kristan’s social worker describes her as somewhat a tomboy—she likes bowling, swimming and volleyball. She favors wearing jeans and putting her long shiny hair in a quick ponytail with a scrunchie elastic instead of spending hours on a hairstyle. When it comes to manicures, though, Kristan can imagine having fun with an adoptive mom or a girl friend doing “nails.” She really appreciates the motherly care that some of the staff at her group home show to her, nodding and saying, “Some of them act like a mother to me.” She’s ready, though, to have a mother who is her very own! She pictures a relaxing family Saturday, sleeping in a little, then a bacon and eggs breakfast, and either a shopping trip or a cozy day of TV, reading, baking, or crafts.

Kristan says that she hopes for a family who would, “Remember me, love me, care for me, and be there for me.” She thinks that when it comes to their children, that a family should “be there for them through life.” She hopes to keep a lifelong connection to her adoptive family. Kristan loves animals, and if they had a family pet, that would be extra nice.

Kristan needs a laid-back family to have fun with. She needs the security and warmth from a family to count on. Whether at the breakfast table, doing crafts, or taking walks, Kristan is waiting for the good fun and good company of a family. Would it be yours?

*To get more information about adopting Kristan, call Cary Sanders at 1-800-596-8460, ext. 101.*

Watch Steph Ann on



## NOAS Staff News The Award Winning Melanie Jones

We are pleased and proud of our NOAS Permanency Planning Specialist Melanie Jones, B.S., LSW. Melanie was recently inducted into the Trumbull County African-American Achievers Association Hall of Fame. She was one of five individuals, entrepreneurs and community volunteers, who were singled out for the honor. The ceremony, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Inductee Dinner, was in Warren at DeVieste’s Banquet Hall.

Melanie, who has raised her adult niece, Sparkle as a single parent, is noted for her volunteerism and work with children. A native of Warren, she earned a bachelor’s degree in law enforcement administration and sociology from Youngstown State University, and she is also a licensed cosmetologist.

A former staffer from Trumbull County Children Services, she has been with NOAS full time for over ten years. Beyond her work at NOAS, Melanie can be found volunteering in the community and advocating for adoptive children and families. She is a certified surrogate parent for pupils with learning disabilities, and has volunteered for Community Volunteer Council, Hospice, and Mentoring Moms. She has been a very active Girl Scout leader for fourteen years. Melanie is also involved with the Southeast Warren Neighborhood Association, Believers Christian Fellowship, and Trumbull County Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance Choir.

Melanie says, “I was surprised and pleased to receive this award. I see myself as a coordinator of an awesome team of dedicated parents. My flair for creativity also follows me with my creative side as a Scout leader. I’m always trying to expose the girls to new adventures. At times they will send a Scout to ask, ‘How are we going to do this?’ I’ll reply in one of two ways. ‘One, give them the plan.’ Two, if there is no plan, I’ll say, ‘I don’t know, but we’ll make it work!’ One of the biggest smiles appears on my face when I overhear the Scouts talking and hear a voice say, ‘We’ll make it work!’”

We’re so proud of your leadership, creativity,



Northeast Ohio  
Adoption Services

## Adoption Expo

*Featuring 'Tweens & Teens  
Legally Free For Adoption*

**When:** Saturday, March 29

**Registration:** 11:30 a.m.

**Time:** 12:00-4:30 p.m.

**Location:**

NEOUCOM Conference Center

4209 State Route 44

Rootstown, OH 44272

Free gift to each family pre-registered by March 21, 2008



## Featured speaker

Dr. Ray Guarendi, author of  
*Good Discipline, Great Teens.*



## Hostess

Sarah Eisler former news anchor at WKBN  
and host of Faces of Adoption monthly series

Breakout Sessions Include:

### For those inquiring about adoption

- Adopting from foster care
- Steps to adoption

### For approved adoptive families

- Funding your adoption
- Surviving the wait

• *Parent Panel* • *Exhibits* • *Light Refreshments*

**Adults Only - No Childcare**

**RSVP BY THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2008**

**For more information or to make reservations call:**

**Melissa Tharpe 1-800-686-6627 ext.126**

**or visit [noas.com](http://noas.com)**

# Ohio Child Welfare Training Program

Adoption Training Workshops for Parents

Northeast Region



**Northeast Ohio Adoption Services (NOAS)**

~ Scheduling agency

**Winter – Spring 2008**

Saturday, March 1, 2008

**Successful Transcultural  
Parenting**

Linda Loveland

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Twelve, Inc., Massillon

1-888-513-8706

Saturday, April 12, 2008

**Attachment Issues in Adoption  
and Foster Care**

Regina Kupecky

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Pathway Caring for Children

Canton

(330) 244-1130

[www.pathwaycfc.org](http://www.pathwaycfc.org)

Saturday, May 17, 2008

**Self Esteem Issues for  
Adopted/Foster Children**

Wanda Boerio

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Ohio Youth Advocacy Program

Boardman office

1-800-449-4109

**To register, please call three days prior to event:**

**Gail S. at Northeast Ohio Adoption Services**

**(330) 856-5582 or 1-800-686-6627, ext. 128**

**Or by email: [gseekins@noas.com](mailto:gseekins@noas.com)**



*There is no cost for attendance. Sorry, child care is not available; children may not attend.  
Certificates will be provided and are approved for foster parent education requirements.*

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN NEED OF SERVICES BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER AN ADOPTION



## Columbiana County Adoption Support Group

### An Invitation to All Foster and Adoptive Families

#### What I can expect from the group:

- People who will listen and offer helpful advice
- People who will not judge
- A place to just listen to others
- Connection with others who have similar experiences
- A place to find out about resources and current information

**Group meets the 4th Thursday of each month at the Salem Public Library in Salem from 6-7:30 p.m.** To register phone Cynthia Wallis at 1-800-686-6627 x 147



**Northeast Ohio  
Adoption Services**

**Northeast Ohio Adoption Services**  
5000 E. Market Street  
Warren, Ohio 44484

Phone: 1-800-686-6627 x147  
Fax: 330-856-5586  
E-mail: [cwallis@noas.com](mailto:cwallis@noas.com)

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN NEED OF SERVICES BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER AN ADOPTION



## Portage County Adoption Support Group

### An Invitation to All Foster and Adoptive Families

#### What I can expect from the group:

- People who will listen and offer helpful advice
- People who will not judge
- A place to just listen to others
- Connection with others who have similar experiences
- A place to find out about resources and current information

**Group meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Reed Memorial Library in Ravenna from 6-7:30 pm.** To register phone Cynthia Wallis at 1-800-686-6627 x 147



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