Older children stay in foster care longer

By CHARLIE WRIGHT
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The Charles County Department of Social Services held an informational event Tuesday at TD Brown Library regarding foster care and the foster care system in honor of National Adoption Awareness Month.

A handful of prospective parents and interested residents gathered in a corner of the library to listen to a presentation from CCDSS recruiter and trainer Claudelle Parchment, who discussed the importance of finding homes for children in need. The county currently has 78 children in need of foster homes, for reasons ranging from abuse and neglect to abandonment.

“We hope that you will recognize that you are a force for change and you will positively impact the lives of our kids,” Parchment said.

The CCDSS is focusing on teenagers in particular, as more than half of the children in need are 13 years of age or older. This course of action aligns with the overall goal of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) over the past two years, specifically targeting teenagers for suitable homes.

Parchment detailed the three types of foster care, which are emergency, restrictive, and regular. The variants are based on length of care and needs of the child, as well as what the parent can offer. Emergency homes provide stays in emergency situations, restrictive homes are used when the child is known or related to the foster parents, while regular homes house children who have been in the system for 15 of the past 22 months.

Eligibility for foster care is fairly simple and comparable to the average age and educational qualifications in the county. Parents must be residents of Charles County, at least 21 years old and agree to a criminal background check. They can be single or married, live in a house, apartment, or cottage, and must demonstrate financial stability. Parchment said there is no specific income level or salary that needs to be met, but it has to be clear that the parents aren’t only interested in the foster care stipend.

Undeterred by technical difficulties, Parchment played a video highlighting several teens in the Charles County system who are in need of loving families. The children talked about their interests and desires, with each sharing the common goal of finding a stable home. Parchment reiterated the needs of individuals in this age bracket, urging the audience to consider them. “They tend to linger in the foster care system a little longer,” Parchment said. “They're looking for the connection for these teens, and we focus more on the fact that we need foster parents for the teen-age population, because they're the ones that stay at the age stage job qualifications in any bracket, urging the audience to consider them. ‘They tend to linger in the foster care system a little longer,” Parchment said. “They're looking for the connection for these teens, and we focus more on the fact that we need foster parents for the teen-age population, because they're the ones that stay in the system.’

Foster homes do their best to care for these children, but permanent residences remain the goal. Foster children do have opportunities relating to their situation, like free college tuition, but Parchment explained any benefits are overshadowed by the specter of long-term psychological distress. A longer stay in foster care makes the case difficult for them to connect,” Parchment said. “The connection to humans, the connection to others, they lose that. Every time they move from one home to the next, it creates a trauma, it croses their ability to trust, it croses their ability to connect with other people.’

The CCDSS is located in La Plata and can be reached at 301-582-4600 for those interested in adoption or foster care.

Twitter: @CharlesIndyBren

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Bryanos and Waldorf fires ruled accidental

By JESSI STICKEL
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The Maryland State Fire Marshal’s Office has released the names of the two victims who died in two separate fires on Nov. 15, and ruled the cause of each accidental.

According to the release, investigations from that fire have ruled it accidental due to overloaded electrical circuits.

At approximately 5:40 a.m. on Nov. 15 a 911 call came in reporting someone possibly trapped in a trailer located on the property of 1772 Marshall Hall Road in Bryan’s Road. The victim has identified as 56-year-old Patricia M. Mahoney, who was the caretaker for the animals at that location. Her cause of death has been ruled smoke inhalation and thermal burns by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Investigators from the fire have ruled it accidental due to overloaded electrical circuits.

At approximately 3:25 p.m. on Nov. 15 a 911 call came in from a medical alert reporting a fire at a camper at 11950 Goldie Farm Place in Waldorf. The victim has been identified as 36-year-old Patricia M. Mahoney, who was unable to escape the fire due to being paraplegic. Nicole Due was home at time of the fire to assist her. Her cause of death has been ruled smoke inhalation.

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Names, cause of fires released for recent county fatalities

By JESSI STICKEL
justickel@somdnews.com

Maryland Independent Wednesday, November 22, 2017

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A complete list of open positions can be found at MedStarSouthernMaryland.org/Careers. If you are unable to attend the Job Fair, you can apply online or call our Human Resources department at 301-877-4567.

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