



DCF NEWSLETTER

April/May 2019 - Issue 3

Pancakes and Pajamas Event at the Newark Public Library



Commissioner Beyer joined David Sims and other Essex County CP&P staff, and over three hundred children and their parents, at the Pancake and Pajama event at the Newark Public Library. This incredible event in Essex County has been coordinated for over 15 years. The day's events focused on learning and literacy and continuous active interaction with the kids. All the children went home with age appropriate books and give aways. Kudos to our Newark South Local Office staff, as they all pitched in to purchase and donate twelve bikes this year. What an amazing event!

NJECC "Thank You" Awards Appreciation Ceremony



New Jersey Employees Charitable Campaign (NJECC) "thank you" awards appreciation ceremony took place at Mercer County Community College. Ashley Schneider, was one of the recipients recognized for the 2018/2019 Campaign Manager award recognized for "going above and beyond to promote the ECC". In addition, DCF was one of the recipients of the 2018/2019 Campaign Chairpersons award given to agencies "that exceeded last year's fund-raiser goal".

Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey Pinwheels for Prevention Event at the *Grounds For Sculpture* in Hamilton



Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey held its annual Pinwheels for Prevention event at Grounds For Sculpture in Hamilton to bring attention to April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, and to promote preventive efforts that support families before maltreatment occurs. [See more photos.](#)

IN THE NEWS

Commissioner's Op-Ed
[Spread word on Safe Haven before another life is lost](#)



Commissioner Beyer testified before the Assembly and Senate Budget Committees this month about DCF's program priorities and spending plan for next fiscal year. Here are some [video highlights.](#)

[Read the Budget Testimony](#)



Press Release:

[New Jersey DCF Excels at Placing Foster Youth in Family Settings](#)



The Early Childhood Center in Lakewood spent a day full of prevention engagement and fun activities, including planting a pinwheel garden for awareness. [More photos...](#)

[#ChildAbusePreventionAwareness](#)

Adolescent Networking Conference “Exchanging Practices That Support Adolescent Sexual Health”



DCF Office of Adolescent Services', Executive Director Jessica Trombetta offered opening remarks at this year's Adolescent Networking Conference held on April 16th, at the Professional Center, in New Brunswick. The day's keynote, Dr. Jayleen Galarza, an Associate Professor at Shippensburg University's Department of Social Work & Gerontology, spoke about sexuality social justice issues.

The conference featured multiple guest speakers and offered attendees an array of informative workshops.

The Future of Child Welfare Systems



Take a moment to listen to this eye-opening and thoughtful message about the future of child welfare systems from Jerry Milner, Associate Commissioner at the Children's Bureau, and the Acting Commissioner for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families. This, is our charge.

Cherish the Children Awards Dinner



On April 17th, the Mercer County Commission on Abused, Neglected, and Missing Children held its annual recognition, “Cherish the Children Awards Dinner,” where they honor the people who make a difference in the lives of New Jersey children. We are grateful so many people strive to keep New Jersey *#SafeHealthyConnected!*

Bring Your Child To Work Day



DCF hosted our children in Divisions, Offices, and Units throughout the department to learn about the work their parents perform to help keep NJ residents safe, healthy and connected.

At the Union East LO staff created games and activities to engage the youth in learning about healthy families. The each got to make a cape!

DCF Resource Development Specialist - Resource Fair



DCF Resource Development Specialists hosted a resource fair at the DCF Professional Center on April 5th in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. [See more photos...](#)



April is Autism Awareness Month and we urge you to take advantage of the educational resources available on this incredible site: [Autism Resources for NJ Families](#)

[#AutismAwarenessMonth](#)

Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

On April 24, DCF recognized Denim Day. Denim has become a symbol of solidarity, alliance, and hope. Drawn from a turning-point-moment in global women's rights history. We wear denim to declare unity with survivors and march with them toward progress. [More photos...](#)

www.denimdayinfo.org/history



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Spoken Word Titled 'Bad Foster Child' by Gina



If you ask me what's my story I say it's filled with complexities
Felt like the devil in my life always runnin next to me
People think I live that life cause I got that lil' degree
Not a thing in my life was obtained so simply

[Read More...](#)

Foster Trailer Debut



May is Foster Care Month. Foster families serve a critical function in child welfare – providing temporary family-like care and support for children that have been placed outside of the home. DCF serves about 48,000 youth, with an estimated 5,500 in out of home placement. Over the years, the role of the foster care parent has evolved and so has the way that we work with them. HBO is premiering a documentary about Foster Care in Los Angeles California. The film is called **FOSTER**. Commissioner Beyer was fortunate enough to screen it at a recent conference she attended. DCF staff should watch it and, if appropriate, hold a discussion session with unit staff. If you

have specific thoughts or feelings you want to share about FOSTER, send them to DCF.Commissioner@dcf.nj.gov

DCF Employee Recognition Awards Ceremony



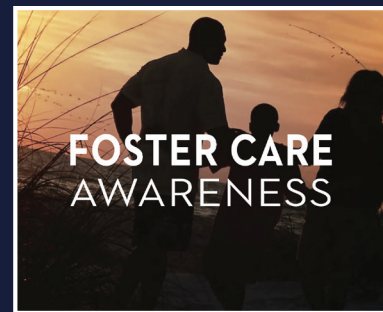
Commissioner Beyer and executive leadership team members highlight some of DCF's valued employees during DCF's Employee Recognition Day. Thank you to all of the DCF employees who are engaged in the important work of supporting children and families throughout the State of New Jersey and ensuring that everyone is #safehealthyconnected! [See more photos...](#)

Central Office 5th Floor Spring into Action Wellness Campaign

'DCF's Central Office 5th floor staff participated in a Wellness Campaign for the month of April. Teams earned points by doing wellness activities such as walking during lunch and taking the stairs. Staff from IT and Adoption Operations won for most points per person and most participants, respectively. Workplace wellness and staff health are one of the four priorities explicitly called out in the strategic plan, because we know how important it is to the rest of our work. Congratulations to everyone on the 5th floor for your creativity and enthusiasm!'

Tuition-Free Community College Now Includes Students Statewide in Spring 2019

[More Information...](#)



DCF is committed to finding permanent and loving homes, for children in foster care. Visit our [WEBSITE](#) to find out how you can become a foster parent or call **1-877-NJ FOSTER**.

[#FosterCareMonth](#)



Greater awareness about mental illness reduces stigma and discrimination and encourages individuals to seek treatment and recovery services.

[#MentalHealthAwareness](#)



Displaced Homemakers Month celebrates individuals who learned to become self-sufficient. Their stories of resilience and determination are inspiring.

[#DisplacedHomemakerMonth](#)

