

## **Section D: Supporting Information**

### **(1) Juvenile Justice Transfers**

**Children's Administration  
Department of Social and Health Services**



**Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2008 - FY 2009  
Juvenile Justice Transfers**

**Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2008  
Juvenile Justice Transfers**

**Juvenile Justice Transfers**

**The Children's Administration (CA)** gathered data from the Case and Management Information System (CAMIS) on children who experienced a Juvenile Rehabilitation placement as the last event of Federal FY 2008, and whose cases were closed as "transfer of custody". Children experiencing a Juvenile Rehabilitation placement remain in the custody of the Children's Administration, unless they are transferred because their Juvenile Rehabilitation stay will exceed the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. While transfer of custody is rare, CAMIS lists Juvenile Rehabilitation events for 101 children who were in out-of-home care during Federal FY 2008.

There were no children who met the above criteria for transfer during FY 08.

**During FY08** (State FY 08), CAMIS lists Juvenile Rehabilitation events for 101 children who were in out-of-home care.

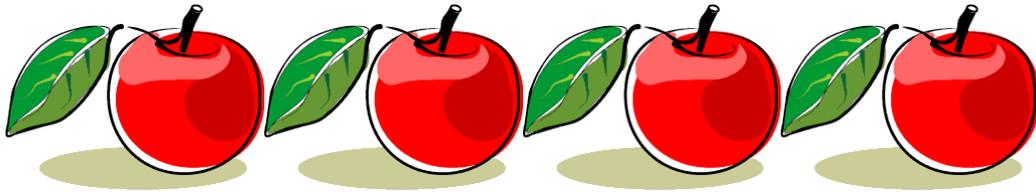
**Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2008 Juvenile Justice Transfers**

Hispanic	RaceGrp	Age @ JREvtStrt	Female		Male		Total Number	Total Percent
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Hispanic	Caucasian	13-15 Yrs		0.00%	1	1.23%	1	0.99%
		16-18 Yrs	1	5.00%	2	2.47%	3	2.97%
	Caucasian Total		1	5.00%	3	3.70%	4	3.96%
	Multi	13-15 Yrs	1	5.00%		0.00%	1	0.99%
		Multi Total		1	5.00%		0.00%	1
	Native American	16-18 Yrs		0.00%	1	1.23%	1	0.99%
		Native American Total			0.00%	1	1.23%	1
	Other	13-15 Yrs	1	5.00%	2	2.47%	3	2.97%
16-18 Yrs			0.00%	1	1.23%	1	0.99%	
Other Total		1	5.00%	3	3.70%	4	3.96%	
Hispanic Total			3	15.00%	7	8.64%	10	9.90%
Not Hispanic	African American	13-15 Yrs		0.00%	5	6.17%	5	4.95%
		16-18 Yrs	1	5.00%	13	16.05%	14	13.86%
	African American Total		1	5.00%	18	22.22%	19	18.81%
	Caucasian	13-15 Yrs	4	20.00%	13	16.05%	17	16.83%
		16-18 Yrs	2	10.00%	25	30.86%	27	26.73%
	Caucasian Total		6	30.00%	38	46.91%	44	43.56%
	Multi	13-15 Yrs	3	15.00%	1	1.23%	4	3.96%
		16-18 Yrs	1	5.00%	8	9.88%	9	8.91%
Multi Total		4	20.00%	9	11.11%	13	12.87%	
Native American	13-15 Yrs	1	5.00%	4	4.94%	5	4.95%	
	16-18 Yrs	2	10.00%	1	1.23%	3	2.97%	
Native American Total		3	15.00%	5	6.17%	8	7.92%	
Not Hispanic Total			14	70.00%	70	86.42%	84	83.17%
Not Reported	African American	13-15 Yrs	1	5.00%		0.00%	1	0.99%
		African American Total		1	5.00%		0.00%	1
	Caucasian	13-15 Yrs	1	5.00%		0.00%	1	0.99%
		16-18 Yrs	1	5.00%	4	4.94%	5	4.95%
Caucasian Total		2	10.00%	4	4.94%	6	5.94%	
Not Reported Total			3	15.00%	4	4.94%	7	6.93%
Grand Total			20	100.00%	81	100.00%	101	100.00%

Source: Placement & Legal Status.mdb\_5\_08 download. Unique count of children who experienced a Juvenile Rehabilitation placement

event while in open in out of home care during SFY08\_YTD.

Age @ JR Evt Start reflects the child's age at the start of the earliest Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) event within the SFY08\_YTD open episode.



## **Section D: Supporting Information**

### **(2) Inter-Country Adoptions**

**Children's Administration  
Department of Social and Health Services**



## Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2008 - FY 2009 Inter-Country Adoptions

**Children's Administration (CA) does not directly provide international adoption services,** however the Division of Licensed Resources (DLR) does license child placing agencies that may provide international adoption services. The Hague Convention was fully implemented in the United States in 2008 all agencies doing international adoption are accredited through the state departments approved accreditation entity.

A computer alert reminds CA social workers to gather information on adoptions that may be international placements. This also allows CA to keep statistics on international adoptions.

From July 1, 2007 through June 18, 2008 there were 3 children placed in state foster care adopted internationally. All children were placed in temporary care and were returned to their families. The children were adopted from:

- Bulgaria – agency that was involved is unknown. Child was placed to assist family with services for youth that was displaying self harm tendencies and for allegations of sexual abuse. The Allegations of sexual abuse were not founded; CA facilitated services and child returned home.
- Russian Federation – Youth at a Youth Shelter not wanting to return home for more family therapy. Family agreed and provided support to you who turned 18; services, work and schooling lined up.
- Canada – youth and family moved from Canada to Washington; parents adopted youth while living in Canada. Family offered Family Reconciliation Services where services were completed with a poor prognosis.



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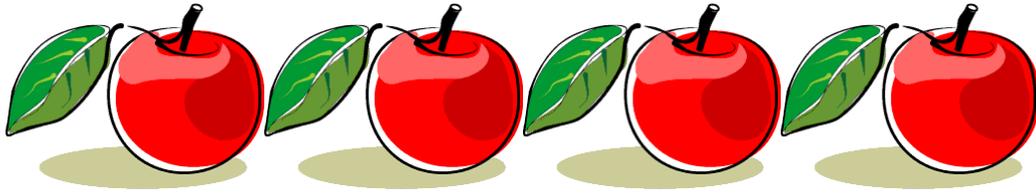
### **(3) Child Welfare Demonstration Projects**

**Children's Administration  
Department of Social and Health Services**



**Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2008 - FY 2009  
Child Welfare Demonstration Projects**

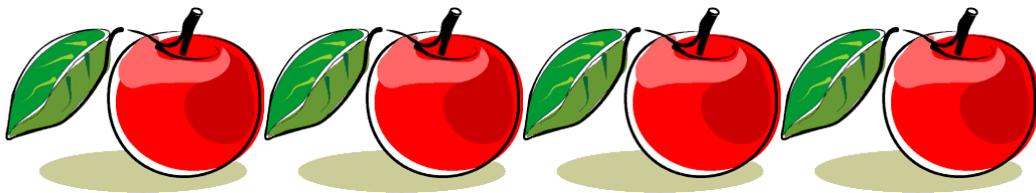
**Children's Administration (CA) did not have** any Child Welfare Demonstration Projects during FY 2008.



## **Section D: Supporting Information**

### **(4) Foster/Adoptive Home Recruitment**

**Children's Administration  
Department of Social and Health Services**



## Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2008 - FY 2009 Foster/Adoptive Home Recruitment

### Foster Home Recruitment

Contracts with private agencies are the major component of the Children's Administration's (CA) foster home recruitment system.

The momentum that was built utilizing the training and technical assistance in FY 2007 has continued in FY 08. There is renewed energy regarding recruitment among state staff and the recruitment contractors to improve the way we recruit foster parents. CA took the offer of free technical assistance on recruitment from National AdoptUSKids. Two consultants from that group and a marketing expert met with 45-50 people from Washington State for three two-day meetings in June, September and December 2007. The group included state staff, contractors, foster parents, relative caregivers and marketing experts from both within and outside CA.

The Recruitment contractors and CA staff also met for one day after the Foster and Caregivers Conference to continue work on developing a toolbox for recruitment. The Recruitment oversight committee has continued to meet quarterly on a statewide basis to share successes and ideas from around the state. This has been a pivotal piece to maintaining the renewed energy and emphasis on recruitment.

From this work group, a plan emerged for targeted marketing and a new branding and marketing campaign.

The group decided that rather than use generalized recruitment as is traditionally done in Washington and elsewhere, the state should use targeted recruitment. The group decided to target a population of potential foster parents that looked like our "successful" foster parent. The group defined "successful" foster parents as those who had been licensed for more than three years, since all foster parents have to get re-licensed every three years in Washington. A second criterion was that our "successful" foster parents had to have a child currently in care. Using those criteria, we were able to give marketers approximately 1,400 addresses. They were able to use their databases to match the profiles at those addresses and get us about 1 million more addresses by zip code.

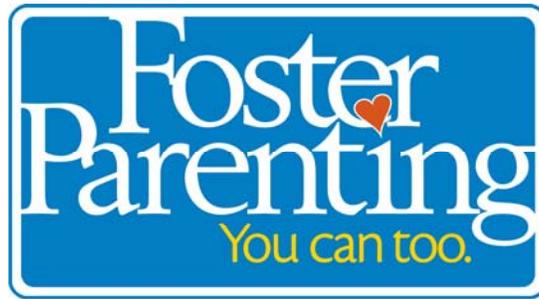
We learned what our successful foster parents look like, what appeals to them, where they get their information, etc. Five major demographic elements include: they like outdoor activities; drive SUVs and trucks, have dogs, belong to music clubs such as Columbia House, and eat out at fast food fish places. All these factors provide valuable information about messages and venues to use in recruitments.

Each of the six CA regions has a Regional Collaboration Committee that oversees the work of the contractors. Each region looked at the data received regarding who are successful foster parents and looked at populations of people that we have not targeted in the past as potential foster parents. Regions are using this information to build their new recruitment targets.

In FY 09, CA plans to take the data to the next level and learn how to fully understand and use it. We are hoping to partner with Partners for Our Children to provide training and technical assistance in analyzing the data further.

At the same time, CA and its partners in the targeted recruitment work developed a branding and marketing campaign. Using largely internal sources, 12 logos and slogans were created. They were then put on-line for people to express their preference. With that input, and using criteria developed by the marketing and communications staff within CA, a foster parent recruitment logo was developed for the first time: "Foster Parenting You Can Too". The logo was officially introduced at

the May 2008 Foster Care Appreciation ceremony in Olympia. It is bold, visible, affirmative, aimed at adults and usable in a variety of ways:



The "You Can Too" logo works to humanize the need. Our recruitment material will feature pictures of a variety of types of people that will look like people we are trying to recruit. For example, we will have a Hispanic family if we are aiming at that community. We will use a Boeing engineer and his family for materials aimed at that population. These will be real people that people in many of our targeted communities may very well know. And we are putting these people in settings identified by our demographic information – getting into an SUV, fishing with a child, playing in a park, gardening, etc. The idea came when in the initial stages of creating the campaign in a discussion with a former foster parent was in the room. The idea was, "Bob did it. You can too."

CA is in the process of developing an on-line store for recruitment staff to order customized supplies through the Washington State Printer, another of our collaborative partners. The materials for the recruitment campaign will be chosen collaboratively between our contractors and state staff. A contractor can order a specific amount of a certain kind of product, such as a brochure with a Hispanic family, and the dollar amount will be deducted from their contract. To date CA has distributed brochures, door hangers, and drawstring backpacks with the logo on them.

The goal is to have one message statewide to build consistency for families and to increase awareness with one logo. This is all linked to past recruitment utilizing Family to Family and Streets and Trips. CA will be monitoring the effectiveness of targeted recruitment to determine the benefits to children in Washington State.

Additionally, a new Statewide Recruitment Information Center has been created. Through a Request for Proposals process, a Seattle-based contractor was chosen to handle the calls on the new statewide foster parent recruitment number (1-888KIDS414) and the questionnaires from potential foster parents that come in through the CA web site. The contractor also is improving a newly developed data base to monitor inquiries and make sure that they are sent to the appropriate contractors in the appropriate regions for guidance through the licensing process.

Through its contracts with private agencies, the state has created a corps of front-line recruiters in communities throughout the state who are able to talk to potential foster parents and who can help build recruitment activities with people they already know in their own communities. This will be very helpful in focusing foster parent recruitment efforts on school-based recruiting and for homes specific to identified placement needs.

All this work is being coordinated with the Family To Family coordinators and committees CA has developed in each region. Those committees and coordinators are using "Streets and Trips," computer software that can visually show (using an icon such as a house) where children have been removed when they come into out-of-home care. Another house can then show where they were placed. It is a visually dramatic way to show community leaders and others how many children have been removed from their geographic areas and where they have been sent, once removed. Using the new data about developed through the targeted recruitment work, we can identify those areas where the need is the greatest and match them to foster parents in those areas.

This is a significant series of steps to improve our recruitment. CA has enlisted the help of our contractors and community partners in every step along the way, increasing the chances we will significantly improve our numbers of new successful foster homes.

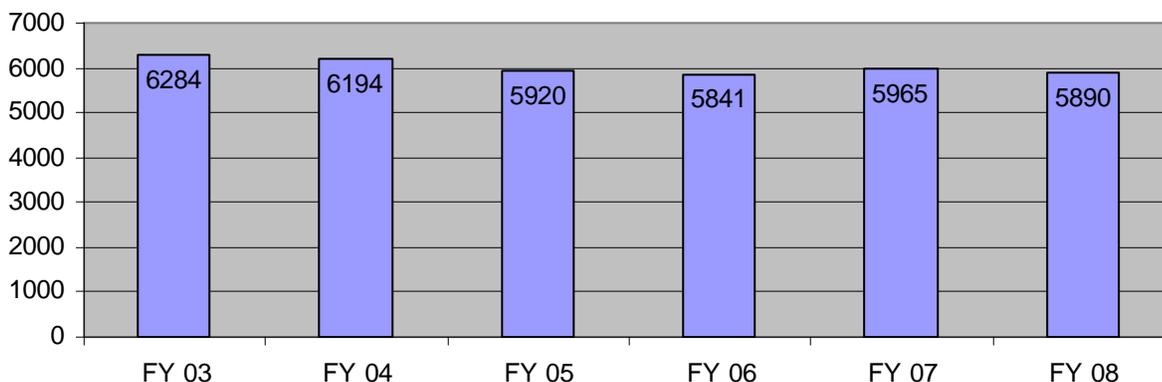
For FY 08, the most current figures through May 2008 show we have 953 newly licensed homes. If the monthly trend continues through the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2008, CA will have licensed about 1,040 homes. This is a decrease from 1,351 the previous fiscal year.

Minority foster home recruitment continues to occur through the regionally based recruitment contracts. The identified recruitment target is based upon regional needs and determined through the Regional Collaboration committees which are comprised of State staff, recruitment contractors and other identified community members. Recruitment of minority homes slowly began to increase in FY 2006 after a four year downward trend (1467 in FY 06; 1418 in FY 08). As of the end of May 2008, 194 newly licensed foster homes were recruited. That number for the fiscal year will be 211 if the monthly trends are followed. For FY 07, the number was 293. It is hoped through the new recruitment campaign that recruitment of minority homes will continue to increase to meet the needs of children in out-of-home care.

CA believes these numbers do not reflect any lack of effort on the part of state or contracted recruitment staff. With the requirements of the Adam Walsh Act that began in July 2007 for fingerprinting of all potential foster parents, significant delays occurred among a number of potential foster parents. CA believes this is the primary reason for the reduction.

The number of licensed foster homes available has continued to fluctuate for the past several years. As of March 2008 there are 5,890 licensed foster homes in Washington State (1418 minority foster homes and 4472 non-minority foster homes). Compared to the total licensed foster in FY 2003 with 6,284 and in FY 07 with 5,921. The implementation of the fingerprint requirements by the implementation of the Adam Walsh Act and the change in Washington State requirements in July 2007 CA has seen a decline in new licenses; fingerprints checks has been the primary cause of this delay. Many regions and offices around the state struggled with obtaining accurate "rolling" of fingerprints. DSHS, Children's Administration and the Aging and Disabilities Services have proceeded with contracting with a private vendor to provide scanned fingerprints. This should speed up the fingerprint process by electronically sending them to the DSHS Background Check unit; the number of rejected fingerprints should also be reduced if not eliminated. The contract goes into affect on July 1 in 12 areas of the state then opening by July 18, 2008.

### Licensed Foster Home\*



Data is provided from the 2007 Performance report. Information for FY 08 is based upon data as of June 23, 2008 from CAMIS data Foster home counts June 08 downloaded (6-23/08).

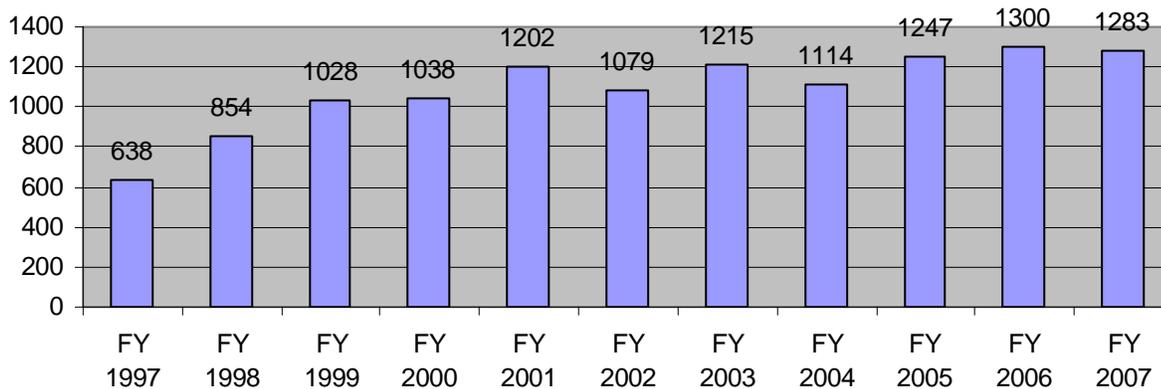
## Adoption Recruitment and Services

Cross-jurisdictional resources are used to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children. There are numerous activities involved in recruitment of adoptive families for waiting children. The placement of a child in a cross-jurisdictional placement many times is the most suitable placement and can avoid delays in finding a permanent placement for a child.

CA makes every effort to establish permanency for children unable to return to the care and custody of their birth parents through adoption, guardianship, long term foster care and/or relative placements. Permanency via adoption was achieved for 1,283 children in the care and custody of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) during FY 07 as reported in the Children's Administration Performance Report 2007.

Over the past several years, the trend in finalized adoptions has continued in a growth pattern, although there are fluctuations from year to year as indicated in the chart below:

**Finalized Adoptions**



Adoptive family recruitment is a challenging and on-going effort for social workers. Finding families who can potentially "best meet each child's individual needs" requires workers to engage in several different types of recruitment activities.

- Generalized adoption recruitment provides information to the general public regarding the on-going need for adoptive families.
- Targeted adoption recruitment aims its message at a specific group or population of individuals or families who may have specific interests or abilities in caring for children who need a permanent home.
- Child specific adoption recruitment profiles the strengths and needs of an individual child or sibling group.

Workers who are engaged in adoption recruitment activities are encouraged to cast the broadest net possible, which in turn reaches the greatest number of individuals and families who may be interested in adoption. In order to find the most appropriate family for a child who does not have a permanent adoptive family identified, there must be a ready resource of waiting prospective adoptive families who have the potential to meet the unique special needs of each child. In an effort to locate potential adoptive families, CA provides numerous recruitment sources to social work staff. These options include individual staff recruitment activities, attending adoption consortiums to meet

with other adoption agency staff, recruitment contracts with community partners and utilization of local, regional and national adoption exchanges. In FY 2004, Washington began placing some of our waiting children on the National AdoptUSKids website ([www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org)).

Other activities that focused on adoption recruitment include:

➤ Adoption Consortiums

Adoption Consortiums promote inter-regional linkages on behalf of children. These consortiums provide a collaborative staffing process between the department and private agencies around the state to increase awareness of children in need of adoptive families and approved adoptive families waiting for placements. The consortiums are often the first step in the recruitment process, when family members and/or the current caregiver are not a permanent resource. Consortia activities many times assist workers in making appropriate matches without the need to make a national search.

➤ Local and National Adoption Exchanges

The Children's Administration contracts with the Northwest Adoption Exchange (NWAE), a private agency with recruitment experience and expertise, to place children on the Washington Adoption Resource Exchange (WARE) and the NWAE exchange. Children who are not in an identified adoptive home and have a permanent plan of adoption should be registered with the WARE that provides a photo-listing that is distributed to all Washington State private agencies and DCFS social work staff who provides adoption services for children and families. The book provides a picture and a brief description of each child and is only accessed by social workers or families that have an approved adoptive home study.

The latest data available (from FY 07) indicate there were 179 new children registered, making a total of 391 Washington children registered with WARE. During this past year 142 children were placed which is compared to 128 in FY 06. For waiting children recruitment expands to a national level after 90 days. The NWAE website ([www.nwae.org](http://www.nwae.org)) served 257 children in FY 07, 95 of these children were placed, 40 have pending placements, 23 children were withdrawn, and 99 children are still in need of active recruitment. NWAE staff also attends the regional consortium meetings to provide outreach to staff about recruitment options. Though there are fewer children registered with the national exchange (NWAE) it is believed that many children are being placed into foster adopt families prior to parental rights being terminated. This is a positive step for children and families in Washington.

➤ Purchase of Service

The Purchase of Service (POS) program provides contracts to private agencies in Washington and other states, for the recruitment and placement of children into adoptive homes and as well as the finalization of the adoption. The POS program began as a pilot project in early 1980, to help offset the cost of recruitment that private agencies provide for eligible children in need of adoptive families. One of the eligibility factors includes the length of time a child is registered with WARE before an adoptive family is identified and placement occurs. In FY 07, 32 children were referred to the program which resulted in 29 child specific contracts, 23 adoptions have been finalized, two placements disrupted, and the other children are still pending adoption finalization.

- The Specialized Adoption Recruitment Program (SARP) which focuses on child specific recruitment has helped increased permanent placements. During this past year, CA continued the child specific recruitment contract with Northwest Resources/Northwest Adoption exchange (NWAE). The contract provides specialized recruitment for special needs sixty (60) children/youth each fiscal year. This project accepts children who are legally free, registered with the Washington Adoption Resources Exchange (WARE), have

a permanent plan for adoption, and have located no family through other recruitment methods. The contract builds upon community partnerships with local child placing agencies to bolster recruitment efforts and commitment to permanency for the children of Washington State who are waiting for adoptive families.

Since the inception of this contract in July 2001, there has been a 70% success rate in placing the enrolled children with adoptive families. Many lessons have been learned along the way including identification of additional staff training needs, the critical importance of preparing children for adoption, and making good placement decisions. CA staff's participating in these recruitment efforts have become strong supporters of child-specific recruitment and call to have children placed on a waiting list for the next available slot.

➤ AdoptUSKids Campaign

Washington State in collaboration with the Families for Kids, Northwest Adoption Exchange, and Families like Ours began participating in the AdoptUSKids campaign launched in 2004. The ad campaign is slated to run for a minimum of three years.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families has partnered with, The Adoption Exchange Association, The Collaboration to AdoptUSKids and the National Ad Council to launch a new public service advertising campaign. The campaign issues a call to action to prospective parents asking them to consider adopting a child or children from foster care. The campaign aims to significantly increase the awareness of the urgent need to provide loving, permanent homes for these children. The campaign targets prospective parents, assuring them that they don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent, and that just being there makes all the difference.

The most important characteristics for prospective parents are a belief in adoption and an ability to commit, patience and perseverance, a good sense of humor and talent for keeping life in perspective, a love of children and parenting, the ability to be flexible, tolerance and understanding for your child's conflicting feelings and your own, the strength to be consistent and set limits, a willingness to learn new parenting techniques and advocate for your children's educational and medical needs, and resourcefulness.

Children placed on the website ([www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org)) are there as part of the Specialized Adoption Recruitment Project (SARP). From July 2007 through June 2008 - 37 children have been registered with 17 children have been placed. Since CA through the NWAEE have been utilizing the Adoptuskids website 147 children have been placed and currently there are 23 children still active.

➤ Heart Gallery

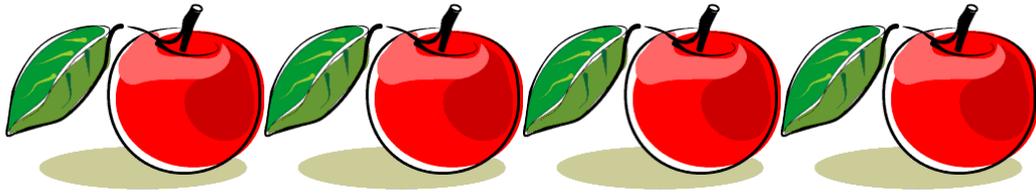
The Children's Administration continues to participate in the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Washington Heart Gallery exhibit which includes a collection of 59 portraits of children, teens, adults, families and seniors supported by DSHS programs. The [Washington State Heart Gallery](#) is a unique portrait exhibit of compelling photographs of DSHS clients who need help and encouragement.

The Heart Gallery has been well received around the state however the overall effectiveness of the program for children in need of adoptive families has not yet been determined.

➤ Wednesday's Child Program

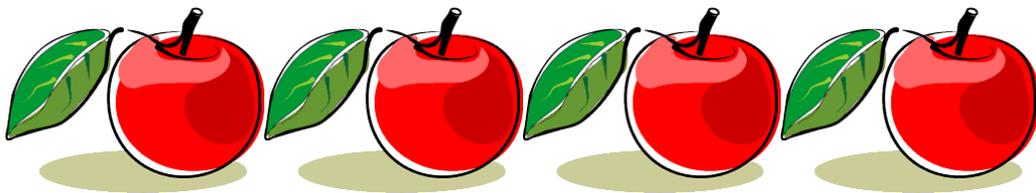
The Wednesday's Child Program provides adoption recruitment to youth utilizing partnerships with the media. The program focuses on recruitment through the use of local television stations. The NWAEE exchange continues to facilitate and fund utilization of this recruitment

mechanism for youth by coordinating with the Spokane and Idaho television stations, social workers, caregivers and youth.



## **Section D: Supporting Information**

### **(5) Adoption Incentive Payments**



**Children's Administration  
Department of Social and Health Services**

**Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2008 - FY 2009**  
**Adoption Incentive Payments**

The Children's Administration did not receive any adoption incentive funds during FY 2008.