



Kent County
Foster Care Agencies
present....

SWING INTO SPRING

ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE



SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2009

**NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

**2777 KNAPP ST. NE
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49525**

SWING INTO SPRING!

Spring is a time for new life and growth. Out of the dreariness of winter comes the promise of sunshine and warmth. It's the opportunity for seeds to be planted, for the cultivation of soil, and of the promise of a harvest. This word-picture has been used many times in symbolizing aspects of personal growth, and can be applied to your efforts in providing children with the care and love that you do. While you have not started the process of life, you have stepped in and have taken over the gardener's role. There is often times a lot of pruning, digging in the dirt, and doing the tough weeding and cleaning up. Sometimes the situation even calls for uprooting and replanting. Very rarely do we see the end result of a full and plentiful harvest. We do, however, often see the "fruit" of our labor in small increments—a polite word spoken, a hug, a grateful smile.

While we often times wish or even pretend we can do everything, you as foster parents have realized that you can do something, and you are. You have stepped into the gardener's role. You have given up so much, and have seen the area where you can serve. You have continued to "not refuse" doing what you are able, and continue working in the dirt.

This spring we are excited to bring you some wonderful training opportunities. We have tried to provide trainings that we hope to be relevant and beneficial. We have arranged trainings in Sexual Abuse, the Impacts of Trauma, Love and Logic, Relative Care, and Working with Birth Parents. This will be an important day of learning, and we hope that you take advantage of it! Thank you for the guidance you give, your willingness to learn and your patience for growth to occur in our foster children. We are so thankful for each of you and all you do!

~Kent County Child Placing Agencies



