

**TGIF Celebrates Christmas Across Texas!**

From Beaumont to Houston and Ft. Worth, TGIF helped nearly 200 Texas children have a special day this Christmas season by giving them a day filled with fun, gifts and, Santa. Thank you to all our friends who helped us make these parties possible!



**TGIF Foster Parents of the Year in FW, William & Jessie Curley.**



**TGIF Employee of the Year Sharon Cash of Houston with Sharon Grandberry, TGIF director.**

**TGIF Foster Parents of the Year Named at 10th Annual Picnic**

Once again, TGIF family and friends gathered together for a day of fun, fellowship and food at the Annual TGIF Foster Parent Appreciation Picnic at Hawaiian Falls Water Park Mansfield, TX.

The day is a special effort to say "thank you" to the individuals and families who have "opened their hearts and their homes" to neglected and abused children across the state according to Sharon Grandberry, founder and executive director of TGIF.

Foster Parent of the Year awards were presented to William & Jessie Curley of FW; Ms Robbie Bennett of Beaumont; and Damasque & Shakia Moore of Houston.



## Foster Parent Mandatory Training Schedule January - March 2015

*Check here each issue of the TGIF Newsletter to learn about the State mandated training sessions each foster parent must complete during the upcoming three months.*

### Fort Worth

January 19: PAPH

January 24: Minimum Standards & Agency Changes.

February 21: Basic Skills: Children's Needs.

March 21: TBA

*All trainings begin at 9:00 a.m. in the TGIF office located at 4109 Mansfield Highway, Fort Worth 76119 Phone: 817-561-4149*

### Houston

January 10: PAPH

January 24: Childhood Obesity

January 28: Appropriate Supervision & Monitoring

February 7: PAPH

February 21: Fostering 101 Pt. 1

February 25: Min. Standards (6 p.m.)

March 7: PAPH

March 21: Fostering 101 Pt. 2

March 25: Documentation (6 p.m.)

*All trainings begin at 10 a.m. (Unless noted) in the TGIF office located at 5330 Griggs Road, A110, Houston 77021 Phone: 713-644-2600*

### Beaumont

January 29, 2015: Working with Birth Parents

February 26, 2015: Attachment in Foster Children

March 26, 2015: Childhood Traumatic Grief

April 23, 2015: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

*All trainings begin at 6:00 p.m. in the TGIF office located at 990 IH-10N, Suite 215, Beaumont 77702 Phone: 409-892-1808 unless otherwise noted.*

**If you have any questions please  
call your local TGIF office.**



### Texas Grandparents are raising their Grandchildren. Kinship Care can help.

According to state statistics there are currently 534,729 Texas grandparents raising their grandchildren. Forming a "grandfamily" — a household in which a grandparent, in the absence of parents, raises grandchildren — has far-reaching effects on lifestyle, economic status, and often quality of life. It means another mouth (or mouths) to feed, and a lack of financial or housing resources holds many family members back, especially if their only income is a social security check.

Fortunately the state of Texas offers daily financial reimbursement to help defray the costs of caring for the child by way of the Kinship Care Program.

**If you are raising a child or know someone who is, TGIF can assist them to become Formal Kinship Care Providers. We encourage you to tell your friends and relatives about the program and have them call their local TGIF office or our toll-free number: 855-948-0500 immediately.**

TGIF will assist you in a speedy verification process and train you. Currently TGIF cares for over one-hundred foster children each day including several Kinship Care children. We pay individual attention to each family and each child. TGIF also provides families with a caring support network available when you need us.

TGIF has successfully assisted many families across the state to get assistance for Kinship Care and we are ready to help you, your friends and your families receive the financial assistance they deserve.

## Director's Message

Hello TGIF Family,

2014 will be remembered as a year of transition for TGIF. We experienced tremendous growth in Foster Families, kinship care families and staff. As executive director of TGIF, I am sincerely grateful to you for your continued support during TGIF's unprecedented expansion. Your hard work and dedication assures that TGIF can look forward to 2015 with optimism and hope.

As I have stressed in the past, growth has its challenges; and you have been made aware that Texas is slowly rolling out a privatization plan for foster care. This plan has far reaching implications for our TGIF families and staff and is not yet realized. Be assured that you will be kept up dated on the process and its effects on you and TGIF.

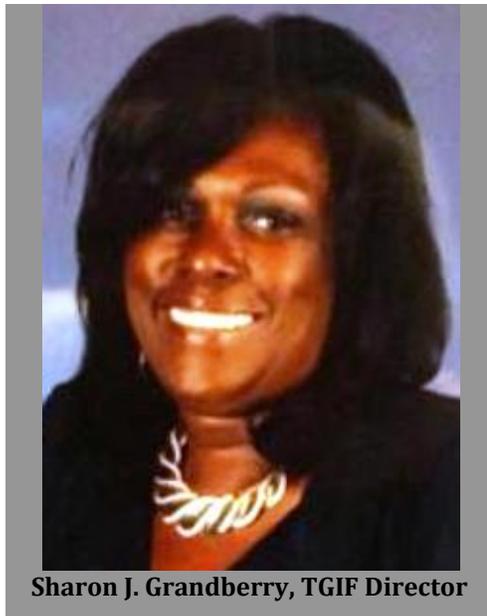
As we close out 2014, let's take a moment to thank our Creator for our many blessings and pray for the health and well being of the TGIF family and the thousands of children in Texas; as well as across the country and around the world; children who are homeless, abused, neglected and sick. Let's recommit ourselves to assisting those young people in need. Let's look in the mirror and recommit ourselves to our mission and our vision. Although, it is not easy and sometimes we don't readily see the rewards, I strongly believe that we can change the world - one child at a time.

When I look into the eyes of a child who has experienced pain and hardship, I see hope and happiness which moves me to work even harder for our children. I know you do also.

Once again, I encourage you to assist TGIF in identifying new foster parents who are willing to give of themselves daily to help abandoned, neglected and abused children. Tell individuals you know who are caring for relatives about kinship care and the financial assistance offered by the State of Texas. Tell them about The Grandberry Intervention Foundation (TGIF)!

Lastly, don't forget our Website: [www.tgifoundation.org](http://www.tgifoundation.org). Thank you for everything you do!

Blessings,  
Ms. G



Sharon J. Grandberry, TGIF Director

*"Children do not care how much you know until they know how much you care."*

Teddy Roosevelt



TGIF Beaumont Foster Parents and Staff  
at Annual Christmas Party



Foster Parent, Pam Davis of  
Grand Prairie, Texas

### Foster Parent Tip -- Be Prepared!

***Make sure you get the support you need.***

As a foster parent, you are a member of a team. This means that you have support. Get the help you need from all of the resources you have available to you.

### Foster Parent Focus

Shreveport, Louisiana native Pamela Davis has been a Foster Parent for nearly 8-years. The 48-year old mother of two has fostered "between 30 to 50 children over the years". Pam has been with TGIF for almost her entire time as a Foster Parent. She became a parent because she, "felt like my kids and I was blessed and I decided to give back".

Davis, who works for GM Financial is a committed parent and is extremely conscientious about her role as a Foster Parent and encourages others to do the same buy with one caveat.

"You have to put your heart into it," she explained. "If you can't deal with the needs of the children you shouldn't do it. Being a Foster Parent is definitely not about the money."



### Tell TGIF How We Can Improve!

We are always looking for ways to improve our service to you and the children we care for. Therefore we are encouraging all of our foster parents to give us your thoughts about how we can streamline or improve our procedures.

TGIF is committed to serving you in a professional and unbiased manner. We welcome your comments. Don't let a problem fester... Bring it to our attention. Don't sit on a good idea... Let us know.

Contact your case worker or email us at [info@tgifoundation.net](mailto:info@tgifoundation.net).

### TGIF Recruiting New Foster Parents

TGIF encourages citizens from every walk of life to get involved – as foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors, employers or in other ways. Will you help us recruit individuals and families like you to join us in these efforts?

Encourage your friends to join you in helping our children. If you know someone who is ready to look into foster parenting have them call the local TGIF office or click on: [www.tgifoundation.org](http://www.tgifoundation.org).



### TGIF OFFICES

- 4109 Mansfield Highway  
Fort Worth, Texas 76119  
817-561-4149
- 990 Interstate Highway-10  
Suite 215  
Beaumont, Texas  
409-892-1808
- 5330 Griggs Road  
A114  
Houston, Texas 77021  
713-644-2600
- 4209 S. Eastman Rd. # 8  
Longview, Texas 75602  
903.234.1366

Toll Free: 1-855-948-0500

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