



Youthville

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**May is National Foster Care Month
Garden City Foster Parents...help to give children back their childhood**

(Garden City, Kansas – April 28, 2008) Over 513,000 American children are in foster care because their own families are in crisis and unable to provide for their essential well-being. May is National Foster Care Month and serves as a platform for connecting more of these vulnerable children with concerned, nurturing adults. The message is simple: *No matter how much time you have to give, you have the power to do something positive that will “Change a Lifetime” for a young person in foster care.*

In celebration of National Foster Care month, Youthville will be honoring its foster parents at events across the state. Youthville’s Southwest Kansas event is scheduled for *May 3, 2008 at Finnup Park in Garden City, Kansas, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

Across the nation, caring individuals are helping foster children build brighter futures by serving as their foster parents, relative caregivers, mentors, advocates, social workers and volunteers. In Garden City, Dan and Misty Richters, are just one of the many Youthville foster parents that are making a difference in their own community. “It is very rewarding to see the children grow and to be able to positively affect their lives in some way,” said Misty Richters. “In fact, one set of children who returned home still keep in touch to let us know how they are doing, which is pretty cool.” When asked why she decided to become a foster parent Misty said, “I have always enjoyed caring for other people and this was a way I could do that by staying home.”

Many of these formerly abused or neglected children and teens will safely reunite with their parents, be cared for by relatives, or be adopted by loving families. No matter their age, all young people in foster care need a meaningful connection to a caring adult who becomes a supportive and lasting presence in their lives. To learn more about how you can get involved in your community go to www.youthville.org/getinvolved.

Youthville is one of the largest nonprofit, child welfare agencies in Kansas, specializing in foster care, adoption, counseling and psychiatric residential treatment facilities. There are more than 1,800 Kansas children in Youthville’s care, with only 400 licensed homes.

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For more information about National Foster Care Month, visit www.fostercaremonth.org.