



January 30th, 2009

Event Highlights Local Children and Youth In Need of Foster/Adoptive Homes

Edmonton...A Foster Care/Adoption Info Fair was held today so members of the public could find out more about becoming a foster or adoptive parent to a local child in need.

"There's a much higher sense of awareness right now that our kids need us and people are thinking more and more about what they can do to help kids in need," said Adam Holm, Senior Public Affairs Officer for Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services. "By showing people a sample of the types of kids who are in the care of the province and looking for a permanent home, we hope more people will step up to help.

In addition to being able to speak first hand to foster and adoptive parents, nine local foster care agencies were also on hand to answer any questions.

One of the key features of the Info Fair was the "Wall of Hope" displaying children who are currently waiting for their adoptive home. One such group of children is a group of five brothers and sisters under the age of eight.

"It can be quite difficult to find homes for siblings, especially large sibling groups like that one," said Holm. "Whenever it's in the best interest of the kids to stay together, we do everything we can to make that happen. Hopefully, by telling more people about the need, we'll find the forever family for those kids – for all our kids."

The Foster Care and Adoption Information Fair is part of A Child's Hope – a program to encourage more people to consider becoming a foster or adoptive parent. It did not provide information for people interested in overseas adoptions such as Haitian adoptions.

"We have 3,000 children in care in the Edmonton area," said Holm. While not all of those need to be adopted, there is always a need for more foster homes.

Although there are about 100 children in the Edmonton area waiting to be adopted right now, people interested in Haitian adoptions should call Alberta Adoption and Permanency Services at 780-422-0178.

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