

CONFERENCE PRESENTER



DEBBIE B. RILEY, M.S.

DEBBIE B. RILEY, M.S. IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR ADOPTION SUPPORT AND EDUCATION, INC. (C.A.S.E.), AN INDEPENDENT ADOPTIVE FAMILY SUPPORT ORGANIZATION IN THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON AREA AND AUTHOR OF THE NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOK, BENEATH THE MASK: UNDERSTANDING ADOPTED TEENS. MS. RILEY IS THE ADOPTIVE MOM OF A TEENAGE SON.

MS. RILEY HOLDS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND. IN 1991, SHE DESIGNED AND COORDINATED (AND CURRENTLY CHAIRS) OPERATION RUNAWAY, A UNIQUE PUBLIC /PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP WITH ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST SUBURBAN POLICE DEPARTMENTS. SINCE 1993, SHE HAS FOCUSED EXCLUSIVELY ON THE FIELD OF ADOPTION. SHE CREATED A CONTINUUM OF POST-ADOPTION PROGRAMS IN THE WASHINGTON DC AREA UTILIZING INNOVATIVE AND EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE COMPLEX NEEDS OF ADOPTIVE FAMILIES.

MS. RILEY PRESENTS BOTH LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY ON NUMEROUS TOPICS RELATED TO ADOPTION AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH. SHE SERVES ON THE RESEARCH AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE OF THE EVAN B. DONALDSON ADOPTION INSTITUTE, THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ADOPTIVE FAMILIES MAGAZINE, AS FORMER PRESIDENT ON THE BOARD OF THE JOINT COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND THE CHILDREN'S AGENDA ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MONTGOMERY CO. COLLABORATION COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES.



4r kids Family Center

In collaboration with

**Cornerstones P.C.
Jewish Family Service of New Haven**

present:

WHAT ABOUT ME?



FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND EDUCATORS

**MENTAL HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL ISSUES
AMONG ADOPTED
CHILDREN AND TEENS**

Presenter:

Debbie B. Riley, M.S.

May 13, 2009

**Jewish Community Center
of Greater New Haven
360 Amity Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525**

PROGRAM

May 13, 2009 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

**8:30 AM –Registration for AM workshop
and continental breakfast**

9:00 AM – Welcome

**9:15 AM – 12:00 PM Mental Health Providers
Workshop**

PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN THE COMPLEX MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES FACED BY ADOPTED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES, INCLUDING GRIEF AND LOSS, ATTACHMENT AND BONDING, ENTITLEMENT AND CLAIMING, IDENTITY, AND SELF-ESTEEM. STRATEGIES WILL BE EXAMINED FOR PROMOTING THE EXPRESSION AND RESOLUTION OF AMBIGUOUS LOSS AND GRIEF IN CHILDREN AS A RESULT OF BEING PLACED IN FOSTER CARE AND/OR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES. IN ADDITION, EMOTIONAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND LEARNING ISSUES STEMMING FROM EARLY LIFE EXPERIENCES INCLUDING TRAUMA AND SEPARATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTAL UNDERSTANDING OF ADOPTION WILL BE EXPLORED.

11:30 AM – Registration for PM workshop

**12:00 PM – Lunch w/ Networking opportunities
(Both workshops)**

1:00 PM – Welcome

1:15 PM – 4:00 PM – Educators' Workshop

THIS WORKSHOP IS DESIGNED FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL. THE GOAL OF THIS WELL-REGARDED TRAINING PROGRAM IS TO CREATE A POSITIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT ABOUT ADOPTION FOR BOTH ADOPTED AND NON-ADOPTED CHILDREN BY FINDING OPPORTUNITIES TO WEAVE INFORMAL, BRIEF EDUCATIONAL MOMENTS INTO ALREADY-EXISTING PROGRAMS AND CURRICULA. IT WILL PROVIDE CRITICAL FOUNDATIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT CHILDREN'S NORMAL DEVELOPMENTAL UNDERSTANDING ABOUT ADOPTION, POTENTIAL MANIFESTATIONS OF ADOPTION ISSUES AT SCHOOL, FIVE KEY STRATEGIES FOR OPENING AND MANAGING COMMUNICATION ABOUT ADOPTION IN SCHOOL, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOME-SCHOOL COLLABORATION ABOUT ADOPTION.

4:00 PM – Wrap Up

SPONSORED & FUNDED BY:

'r kids FAMILY CENTER
CORNERSTONES P.C.
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE



Cornerstones, PC



DIRECTIONS TO:

**THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN**

360 AMITY ROAD
WOODBRIDGE, CT 06525
(203) 387-2522

TAKE EXIT 59 OFF OF MERRITT PARKWAY (ROUTE 15). AT END OF RAMP, TURN LEFT ONTO ROUTE 69. TAKE LEFT ONTO LUCY STREET. AT FIRST LIGHT, TAKE RIGHT ONTO AMITY ROAD. GO TO FIRST LIGHT. TURN LEFT INTO JCC CAMPUS.

CEUs

THIS PROGRAM IS PENDING APPROVAL BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS FOR THREE (3) CONTINUING EDUCATION CONTACT HOURS PER SESSION. THERE IS NO FEE FOR THIS CERTIFICATE. *(EDUCATION CEUs PENDING)*

ADDITIONAL FUNDING PROVIDED BY:

'r kids FAMILY CENTER
ADOPTION COMMUNITY NETWORK

REGISTRATION FORM

*Please print clearly and submit before
May 1, 2009*

PLEASE SELECT ONE:

- AM SESSION: MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

- PM SESSION: EDUCATORS

(LIMIT – FIRST 50 PARTICIPANTS)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Affiliation: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

CONFERENCE FEES

(Buffet lunch for both workshops included)

\$36.00

PLUS - one non-perishable food item

Please make checks payable to:

'r kids Family Center, and send with
registration form to:

'r kids Family Center
Attn: Lauren Taylor Kiss
45 Dixwell Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511

QUESTIONS: 203.865.5437

limited scholarships available