

FEBRUARY 7, 2017

## WHEN KIDS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS CAN'T LIVE AT HOME

By Kelly Burch

Many of Christine Walker's friends are just starting to help their teenage children plan to leave home, whether for a job, college or a gap year. But Walker's 16-year-old son Schuyler has already lived away from his family for seven years, spending nearly half his life in residential treatment programs and schools for children with severe mental illness.

"When Schuyler was 7, that was when I had tried absolutely everything — every pill, every doctor, every diet, every therapy, everything — and we were still at a point when home was unsafe," says Walker, who lives in Winnetka, Ill. "I realized then that everything we had been trying to do wasn't enough."

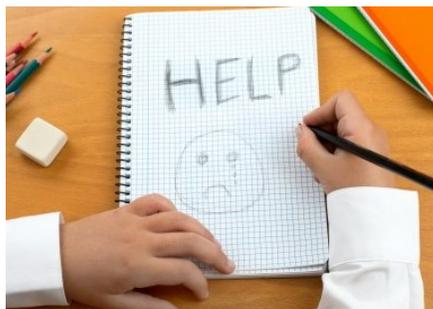
Walker and her husband knew that the only way to meet Schuyler's needs and protect their two younger kids was to have their oldest child live elsewhere. However, it took two years to finally act on that decision.

"It's a last resort, but we had to check into that resort, because we'd done everything else," Walker recalls.

Although it is rarely talked about, the Walkers' experience is not uncommon. In 2015, 271,000 children ages 12 to 17 received care for mental illness at a residential treatment facility. Half of all chronic mental illness begins by age 14, and 13 percent of American children ages 8 to 15 will experience a severe mental disorder, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness. **More children in this country have a psychiatric disorder than have cancer, diabetes and AIDS**

**combined**, and for the most severely affected, residential treatment is the best way to ensure their safety and help them stay out of the juvenile justice system.

**CONTINUE READING**



## THE ADOPTION TAX CREDIT IS FOR FOSTER CARE ADOPTIONS

By Becky Wilmoth

Many people have been told they do not qualify for the Adoption Tax Credit because they had no expenses. This is simply not true! Have you adopted from the foster care system? Are you thinking about adopting from the foster care system? If you have answered yes to either of these questions, you need to know about the Adoption Tax Credit.

The top two questions I am often asked about the Adoption Tax Credit is can it actually help me and how does it work? The answer is yes, it can help you. It helps cover your tax liability. **KEEP READING**

## For your information

**SUPPORTING KIDS FROM FAMILIES WHO ARE AFFECTED BY DRUGS**

**4 SOCIETAL PROBLEMS THAT LEAVE KIDS WITH REACTIVE ATTACHMENT DISORDER STUCK IN "GROUNDHOG DAY"**

**10 ALTERNATIVES FOR "CONSEQUENCES" WHEN YOUR CHILD ISN'T COOPERATING**

**FRIENDS FOREVER: WHY SIBLING RELATIONSHIPS MEAN SO MUCH**

WORTH SIX HOURS FOSTER PARENT CREDIT

# EQUIP >>> LAUNCH >>> SUCCESS!

## PREPARING YOUR TEEN FOR A SECURE JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

# SATURDAY - MARCH 11

FREE EVENT FOR YOUTH (AGE 14+) AND FOSTER PARENTS TO ATTEND TOGETHER

# FORT DODGE

IOWA CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE - APPLIED SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY BUILDING - ONE TRITON CIRCLE - ROOM 304

EVENT IS 9AM TO 4:30PM >>>> REGISTRATION 8:30AM TO 9AM  
FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH - GIVEAWAYS FOR TEENS & PARENTS

## MORNING SESSION

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING - IT IS HERE AND THRIVING IN IOWA!

This training is geared to both youth and foster parents/caregivers, and will consist of a candid discussion on how Human Trafficking operatives work, impact on victims, and how people serving youth can identify and respond. Iowa examples and stories will be shared to clarify situations. This presentation also contains statistics of trafficking trends, and video testimonials of actual victims of Human Trafficking. National statistics show that 68% of youth coming out of "the life" experienced the child welfare system at some point in their lives so we need to protect the youth with foster, adopt or accept guardianship of. **Trainer: Ruth Buckels, LMSW**

WORTH SIX HOURS FOSTER PARENT CREDIT

## AFTERNOON SESSION

### PLANNING FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS TO PERMANENCY

Planning for the future can be overwhelming for all youth but for those exiting the foster care system it can be even more challenging but is also very necessary. Centering the transition plan around the youth who is transitioning is one of the most important ways to help pave the way to a successful adult life. The workshop will provide information and resources about the transition process from foster care to adulthood in Iowa and how foster parents can participate effectively. Information for both teens and adults regarding community resources will be available.

REGISTER ONLINE AT [IFAPA.ORG](http://IFAPA.ORG) OR CALL IFAPA @ 800.277.8145. PLEASE BE SURE TO RSVP FOR YOUR TEEN TOO.

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