THE HISTORY OF TFACA

1974 Tennessee Foster Care Association (TFCA) organized and selected leaders. Those leaders chose “CARE” in its name instead of parents, to focus on Children.

1975 TFCA was instrumental in the issuance of emergency medical cards to authorized foster parents and held its first Annual Meeting.

1976 The TFCA Newsletter, “The Fosterer”, with 900 on the mailing list, came in to existence. TFCA hosted the Region IV Mini Conference for the National Foster Parent Association.

1977 TFCA gained the reputation as an informed and concerned group, spoke at DHEW hearing on Foster Care and Adoption, and was asked to review new foster care legislation for Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth.

1978 TFCA copyrighted two low-cost training pamphlets as tools to better understand foster care.

1979 Copyrighted the third training pamphlet “The Teamwork Approach”, developed a child abuse educational kit, Regional Directors began serving in each of the 12 TDHS regions across the state, and was represented on state steering committee of the international year of the child.

1980 President Linda Kelly and members testified before the general assembly’s select committee on care at hearings in Nashville, Chattanooga, and Johnson City. TFCA continued to provide coordinators and co-instructors in many of the training classes offered by UT and DHS. TFCA joined other child advocates to effect passage of Federal Child Welfare and Adoption Assistance Act.

1981 TFCA President invited to meet foster parents in Florida and Arkansas to tell the TFCA story. TFCA continued to monitor state legislation and federal government effect on foster care and was represented on Advisory Council of Volunteers for children.

1982 TFCA presented workshop at foster Parents of Georgia Association State Meeting. Now have 32 local associations in various stages of activity. Continue to work with UT and DHS in training foster parents as it enters 4th year and is now mandatory for all new foster parents.

1983 First Annual Conference held at Clyde York Training Center.

1984-85 TFCA becomes member of the National Foster Parent Association and was instrumental in getting the age when the board rate goes up from 6 to 5 years.

1986 President Susie Glaser secured food bank privileges for foster parents in Tennessee. President Glaser was appointed to the special task force in Nashville to study foster care and out of this task force came the “Broken Promises”.

1987 Abuse Buster Pins were designed and sold at the annual conference. Children coming into care have to be reviewed within 90 days of entering the system. “Broken Promises” completed.

1988 TFCA was instrumental in bringing about a board rate increase and twice a year clothing allotment for foster children. “Broken Promises” was released to all DHS personnel, and TFCA had a new slogan “House Full of Kids, Hearts Full of Love”.

1989 TFCA was instrumental in developing a foster parent hand book and Membership exceeded 1,000 mark (1041).

1990 President Glaser was reappointed to commissioner’s task force on foster care. Foster Parents Handbook finished and ready for final approval.

1991 Membership exceeds 1200 (1207) and it was the first year for Teen Sock Hop at annual conference.

1992 Foster Parent Handbook distributed across the state.

1993 Annual Conference moved to Nashville’s Belmont College. Membership dropped due to new rules of the Tennessee food bank. Corporate implemented. President Susie Glaser retired after 10 years as President.

1994 Ken Fox elected president of TFCA and he attended the National Foster Parent Conference and was assigned to the committee to work on a Foster Parent’s Bill of Rights.

1996 President Fox appointed Committee Chair, Casey Sharpe of Knoxville, to begin working on Foster Parent Bill of Rights.

1997 Betty Hastings elected as president of TFCA. Foster Parents Bill of Rights signed into law. Ken Fox reports of his meetings in Israel to help organize and compare foster parents with USA.

1998 Foster Advocacy Board was started with Betty Hastings as Lead Advocate with training at state office with Advocates to serve DCS foster and adoptive parents and staff. TFCA received “Association of the Year” award from National Foster Parent Association. Michael McSurdy presented the new logo from SWORPS and “house with heart” was approved.

1999 President Hastings gave Juvenile Judges Bill of Rights training. Advocacy established with president – no voting rights only as an advisor. Michael McSurdy, UT report Betty Hastings was hired by UT to coordinate the Advocacy program through UT and Foster parent program.

1999 TFCA receives $3,000 grant from Nissan Corporation.

2000 TFCA passed a 3 year term for the President’s office.

2001 Ken Fox resigned from TFCA board and received a lifetime membership by the board. Elections held with Betty Hastings voted for second term.

2002 Adoptive added to TFCA becoming TFACA. There were 519 attendees at annual conference in Kingsport.

2003 Jeff Miller was elected as president of TFACA. Betty Hastings began training program on Foster Parent Bill of Rights to DCS attorneys, CPS workers across the state.

2004 Jeff Miller resigned and Vice President Rebecca ??? became acting President.