



## Delaware Valley Adoption Council "Paint and Dine" Event

As the popularity of social painting events has exploded in the region, the Delaware Valley Adoption Council (DVAC) decided to take advantage of this trend by promoting awareness of the need for foster parents.

On May 9, 2017, DVAC held a "Paint and Dine" event at the Davisville Church in Southampton, PA. Foster and adoptive families were invited to the event as well as families from the community who were considering becoming a foster parent. A catered meal was served from 5-6 pm, followed by a two hour presentation by nationally renown speaker, Sue Badeau, and artist (and Sue's daughter), Chelsea Badeau. Sue and Chelsea are authors of "Building Bridges of Hope: A coloring book for adults caring for children who have experienced trauma".



The presentation was focused on working with children who have experienced the trauma of abuse or neglect and their need for safe and stable foster, kin and adoptive families in which to heal, grow and thrive. The families' need for support and strategies to provide this was also discussed. Families came to this interactive event to learn about the children, the process and resources. They enjoyed dinner, received information and left the session with their own completed painting.

a tag team. Chelsea provided the group with step by step instructions on painting a beautiful African landscape scene of a mother and baby giraffe. To allow the paint to dry in between each step, Sue would discuss strategies for helping children to regulate their emotions around trauma as well as information about self care for the

Sue and Chelsea led the event as



families. Families had the opportunity to network with each other as well with caseworkers and share their stories. Community families left with resources to start the foster care approval process and foster parents left with information about ongoing support for their role in the children's lives.



At the end of the event, a group photo was taken of all 25 participants proudly displaying their finished artwork. DVAC has held many foster care and adoption awareness events over the years, but sees this event as a unique success in it's originality as well as the tremendously positive feedback that was received from its participants.

Happy Painting!!!

