Caregiver Connection

A monthly publication for Washington State foster and adoptive families and relative caregivers produced by the Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration and the Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence.

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Contents

Celebrating Holidays	1
It's Never Too Late	2
They Have Changed...	3
Rehoming	3
Living the Lyrics	4
Helping Babies Sleep Safely	5
Managed Health Care	5
Connect with your Team	6
Legal Advocacy for Youth	6
Reminders	7
Additional Resources	8
Meet Our Recruitment	9
Fostering WA Staff List	10
Fostering Together List	11
Cargiver Training	12
Trainers in your Region	13

Celebrating Holidays with Children You Foster

Excerpted from: Fostering Perspectives, North Carolina Division of Social Services, Nov. 2010

The holidays can be tough for foster families. Children in care miss their families and their traditions, while at the same time they may want to be part of the activities of the foster family. Holidays are a time when many children have conflicted feelings about their birth families and worry about them. Conflicting loyalties and lost dreams often make the holidays difficult for children in foster care.

Be prepared for the sadness and grief. Talk about your child's feelings throughout the season; give your children time and space to grieve. Grief takes many forms and can show up in many different ways. Just as studies show that holidays are stressful times for most of us, these reactions are compounded for youth placed in your home. Here are some tips to help manage the holidays:

• Talk about the season ahead of time and how your family celebrates the holidays. What traditional holidays does your house recognize. Thanksgiving? St. Nick's Day? Kwanzaa? Hanukkah? Christmas? New Year? Or all of the above? Talking about the holidays gives children time to anticipate the upcoming activities and ask questions.

• Contact your worker early in the season to discuss:
  - o dates for holiday time at birth family and sibling visits
  - o any plans you have for travel in or out-of-state beyond 72 hours with the child- how might this impact scheduled visitation?

• Help children in foster care know what to expect in your home. Much of what we assume to be commonplace can be new to the children you foster.

• Share the religious meanings the holidays may have for your family. Talk about your family's specific customs and activities; use this time to learn about the religious beliefs, customs, and activities of the children you foster.

• Ask children about their experiences and try to incorporate some of their traditions. The children placed in your home may miss some activities that they experienced with their family.

• Some caregivers try to keep the holidays low key in order to help minimize some of the stress.

• Ask the child's family about their holiday traditions and customs, beliefs and observances. Try to coordinate schedules with the birth families. This gives the children a chance to share what is familiar while experiencing new traditions.

• Help the youth in your home make small gifts and send cards to their birth families and friends.

• Talk about upcoming events and the people who will be there.

• Tell them if your celebrations are quiet or loud, sacred or silly, big or small.

• Above all, enjoy time with your family and the children in your home during the holidays

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO HAVE A HAPPY CHILDOOD

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

Washington joined the rest of the nation in celebrating National Adoption Day in November, even doing it a day early! The national day was November 21; Washington celebrated the day November 20.
Here are three Washington stories of celebration, of lives changed and futures brightened.

"WE'RE SO PROUD TO CALL HER OUR DAUGTHER"

In Spokane, 17-year old Madison Higgin- botham-Wilson got the new family she had wanted, headed by Nancy and Dwight Hawley.
Her back- ground was tough: her mother had died in California, and she had no contact with her father.

Madison Higginbotham-Wilson: a high school senior with a new forever family and a bright future

"She was basically a street kid for 10 years of her life," Nancy says.

Dwight, a school bus driver, spotted her near the school and brought her to the attention of Child Protective Services. She lived in foster homes and a Crisis Residential Center (CRC) when Child Protective Services asked the Hawleys to take her in while they became licensed as foster parents.
"She kept saying 'All I want is a family,' " Nancy said.
They gave her one.

During the first few months, the transition was difficult for all of them, Nancy said. But Madison is now on the brink of a hugely bright future.

Not only was she adopted by the Hawleys on November 20, but that same day she also put her considerable singing talents to practice by singing the National Anthem at a Spokane Chiefs hockey game. Many friends, family and social workers attended the game; local businesses Ken Sax Realty and Alliance Flooring provided her wardrobe for the event; and her hair was styled by Zen Hair Salon, a local salon.

A senior at East Valley High school, where she participates on the track team, Madison currently works 30 hours a week at McDonald's and has gotten her driver's license. She plans to attend Spokane Community College next fall.
Nancy and Dwight gave Madison what she needed most: stability to build her life.

"We went against all the odds to make her succeed," Nancy said. "I really do think we saved her life. We are so proud to call her our daughter."

NATALIE: A STORY OF TWO MOMS

The tale of 3-year-old Natalie's adoption by Hilda and Kurt Schierscher of Longview is more than the story of one little girl finding a forever family.
In a way, she found two.

Natalie first came into the couple's life when she was 11 months old. She initially came with her brother because their biological mom could no longer take care of them.
Kurt and Hilda have been licensed foster parents since 2013. When it came time to decide Natalie's future, something unusual in child welfare happened.

"I had a bond with (the biological) mom," Hilda said. "She asked us if we would adopt (Natalie). This was great for us."
And it was great for Natalie, whose life is shared between all her parents.

"I always tried to relate to her on a personal level," Hilda says of Natalie's biological mom. The relationship started slowly, with exchanges of photos.

Natalie: These moments and these days are what caregivers live for

It eventually reached the point where one mom could tell the other, in effect, "please take care of this child."
The biological mom is still struggling, but Hilda has become a support person in her life, she said.

"She's doing better than she was," Hilda said. "But I have let her know that if she is having a bad day

Research has shown that when foster parents and/or adoptive parents can forge a relationship focused on the children, children feel less torn between the two and more comfortable that the important adults in their lives are working together for them.
Hilda acknowledges that "not everybody can experience our own personal love story."
Foster parents can find it difficult to work with parents with so much damage, when the children come into their home. But Hilda says of the biological mom, "What she was doing was the best she could do" – an attitude of understanding, not judgment.
And Natalie got one other gift through her new family, a big brother. Her13-year-old brother Chayton, who was wary at first, has since taken her very much into his life.
""He is the greatest big brother," Hilda said

"THEY HAVE CHANGED MY LIFE IN WAYS I NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED"

When Nicole and Chris Farrell of Woodland decided to build their family through adoption, they needed persistence and patience to bring four little girls into their home.
"It was a real struggle – three kids with special needs," Nicole said.

But what started as a "happpy accident" – they first met the girls through an unplanned respite experience – turned into an adoption day on October 30 for the three girls and a fourth child who came along during the process. Nicole and Chris have been licensed foster parents for about five years. The three oldest girls came to live with them in 2012, and Zoey was born in mid-2013.
Their two-week respite formally evolved into a lifetime relationship: "We just fell in love with them," Nicole said of the girls.

The Farrells had to jump through many hoops because of the specific and cumulative issues with the kids.

"This is one of the most difficult things we've been through," Nicole said.
But through their unwavering commitment, they made it to the adoption.

"They are not problems. They are people," she says of her daughters.
As the Farrells worked throught the process, they maintained one very strong goal: "We didn't want them separated," she said.

Previously a family in fact, a judge has now declared the Farrells a family in the eyes of the law, the community and the state.

"When I was a little girl, I always said I wanted to adopt," Nicole said.
When it turned out the couple couldn't have biological children, her childhood desire turned into a real-life experience.
And, said Nicole, "We're not done." They maintain a commitment to remain foster parents and to adopt again.

The girls have profoundly affected their lives, which, for Nicole, previously included a 15-year career in banking. Chris is an aerospace engineer –"a rocket scientist," as Nicole describes it.
"They have changed my life in ways I could never have imagined," she says. "They've made made me grow as a person."

ALTERNATIVES TO "REHOMING" CAN KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

When some parents feel they can no longer care for children in their home, they may try to find another home for their children without knowing whether their children might be moving into a situation that places them in harm's way.

This practice of moving children without someone assessing the safety of a new home has a name: It is called "rehoming."

Shannon Freeman, a program manager with Children's Administration, says, "More and more parents are finding alternative placements for their children."

But without someone knowledgeable checking the home, young people can end up in abusive situations or become the victims of sex trafficking.
"These kids can be placed in really scary situations," Shannon said.

Most often, rehoming situations involve failed adoptions, Freeman said.
"Parents are just at their wits end," she said of such cases.

Washington has experienced about seven cases this year that authorities know about.

"People are desperate to have the behaviors and children out of their lives," she said. It's important that parents reaching this crisis stage understand they have many alternatives when they want children moved.

You can learn more about the issue through links, listed below, at "Frequently Asked Questions," a document provided by Children's Administration. Here's is some basic information for parents who need help:

What is Rehoming?

Rehoming is the non-temporary placement of a child – usually an adopted child – with informal caregivers not related to the child or the parents through blood, marriage or adoption. Generally these placements take place without a home study, legal oversight or sharing of the child's special needs. These placements are often arranged through internet message boards or by third-parties.

Does this pose a risk to the child?

Without a background check or a home assessment on the family where the child is being placed, there is no information about the character or suitability of the new caregivers. In addition, in some cases, a person who wants a child placed in their home through a rehoming situation may do so because they are unable to foster or adopt children through appropriate means. Because there is no one supervising the placement, there is an increased risk of child abuse and neglect, exploitation, or sex trafficking for these children.

Where can I find help for my child?

There are many services available to families in Washington State:

- For mental health: https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bhsia/division-behavioral-health-and-recovery
- For developmental disability supports: https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda
- For information on contacting your adoption support consultant: https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/adoption-and-adoption-support/adoption-support-program-consultants
- For services available through Children's Administration: https://www.dshs.wa.gov/children
- Adoption family support organizations may have support groups.

What if I feel my child needs to be placed outside of my immediate family?

- Contact a responsible, known family member to provide short-term care.
- If you must place your child outside of your immediate family, you should contact an attorney or private adoption agency to place the child in an approved, appropriate home.

Please remember, asking for help and support is a sign of strength not weakness.

For more information about this topic: http://www.reuters.com/investigates/adoption/#article/part1

IT'S A WIN, WIN, WIN

LIVING THE LYRICS - "WE ARE HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER AND NOTHING MORE."

Thoughts by Bob Partlow
Former foster parent

"We Are How We Treat Each Other and Nothing More."

Those words from "Nothing More," a song by the rock band, Alternate Routes, could be the mission statement tattooed on the hearts of those who care for – and care about – kids.
The song's message, that our deeds define our individual lives and our collective humanity, rings especially true this time of year, when the bells of the season chime out hope and peace and caring.
In our world of child welfare, those who give care to foster, relative and adoptive children – and those who support them in that effort – know they are the gatekeepers and guardians of the future. They have watched children in pain –they have seen their suffering, they've heard their emotional cries and witnessed their psychological scars – and they have decided to define their lives by taking those children into their homes, and often, into their hearts.

The song's words – tattooed on their hearts – have been put into action every day:
"We are love,
We are one,
We are how we treat each other when the day is done."
So moving is the song's message that it was sung at the Sochi Olympic Games in 2014. It also wrapped up a Christmas episode of the "NCIS" show in 2013. (You can listen to the song through this link to their official video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tX-zlVjUIxs)

"Nothing More" was inspired by the tragic events in Newtown, Conn., three years ago this month, when 20 young children at Sandy Hook Elementary School were cut down in their classrooms and six adults were killed trying to shield and save them from the horror that came charging in through the schoolhouse door that morning.
Two of those adults, Dawn and Mary, principal and counselor, forever defined themselves on the last day of their lives by how they reacted, as recounted by author Brian Doyle:
Dawn and Mary "jumped, or leapt, or lunged out of their chairs and ran toward the sound of bullets. Which word you use depends on which news account of that morning you read, but the words all point in the same direction — toward the bullets," he wrote.
The song continues ...

"To be bold, to be brave;
It is the thinking that the heart can still be saved."
The Alternative Routes, whose roots are in nearby Bridgeport, Conn., has since partnered with the non-profit, Newtown Kindness (www.newtownkindness.org). The organization has a mission statement that would also ring true to all of you reading this story.
"Our mission is to promote kindness as a guiding principle of humanity. Newtown Kindness is committed to fostering compassion in children and inspiring lifelong contributors to society. The organization aims to facilitate acts of kindness within communities as well as raise awareness of kindness through education, sharing and recognition."

Newtown Kindness was begun by the family of Charlotte Bacon, one of the children killed that day. It has since expanded to include a day
when acts of kindness and compassion by young people are honored at a national event. That day is February 22, Charlotte's birthday.
And the song continues ...

"Tell me what it is that you see
A world that's filled with endless possibilities"
For you, who are the guardians and gatekeepers of the future, the best gift on Christmas morning is the gift of children.
It is a gift that goes both ways, and far beyond the gaily wrapped presents.
The gifts from the children include laughter, love and the promise of the future.

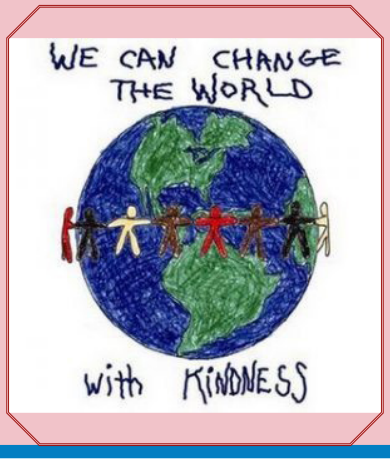
Our gifts to them are much harder to see because they can only be unwrapped by them over time.
- The gift of your strength, which makes them stronger.
- The gift of your love and compassion, which teaches them to love and act with compassion.
- The gift of hope, which makes them more hopeful.
- The gift of example, which helps them see other ways to approach life.
- The gift of stability, which provides them a safe framework in which they can develop and grow.
- And the gift of your faith that their future will be better than their past, which helps them have that same faith: that their life can truly be filled with endless possibilities.

As a society, we rightfully recognize as heroes those who, as their life's work, have chosen to put themselves in harm's way for us, to secure peace and keep us safe.
But not all heroes wear uniforms that easily mark their life's mission, who understand that "we are how we treat each other."
While some heroes run toward the sound of the guns to thwart danger, others run toward the sound of the young to keep them from harm.
And the song continues ...

"Heroes don't look like they used to,
they look like you do."
As Brian Doyle wrote about Dawn and Mary, two of the heroines who gave their lives at Sandy Hook:
"The next time someone says the word hero to you, you say this: There once were two women. One was named Dawn, and the other was named Mary. They both had two daughters. They both loved to kneel down to care for small beings. They leapt from their chairs and ran right at the boy with the rifle, and if we ever forget their names, if we ever forget the wind in that hallway, if we ever forget what they did, if we ever forget that there is something in us beyond sense and reason that snarls at death and runs roaring at it to defend children, if we ever forget that all children are our children, then we are fools who have allowed memory to be murdered too, what good are we then? What good are we then?"
And the song continues ...
"To be humble, to be kind,
It is the giving of the peace in your mind.

To a stranger, to a friend...
To give in such a way that has no end."

Thank you for your defining your life by giving it to children.
It truly is the best gift of all.



HELPING BABIES SLEEP SAFELY

Children's Administration is providing you with the following guidelines about safe sleep for babies from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The academy recommends these practices to keep little ones safe while sleeping:

- Always place baby on his or her back for every sleep time.
- Always use a firm sleep surface. Do not use a car seat.
- Co-rooming is good but baby and parents should not share a bed (room-sharing without bed-sharing.)
- Do not have soft objects or loose bedding in the crib, including pillows. Blankets, bumper pads and toys
- Wedges and positioners should not be used.
- Offer a pacifier at nap and bedtime.
- Avoid covering the infant's head or overheating the infant.
- Swaddling may lead to overheating – it should be done only until the age of two months and only with the advice of a physician and proper training on safe swaddling techniques.
- Do not use home monitors or commercial devices marketed to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

These links will show you the Safe Sleep Guidelines, and the practices and procedures that state social workers and licensors are required to review with families:

www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SESA/publications/documents/22-1577_0.pdf
www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/1100-child-safety/1135-infant-safety-education-and-intervention

MANAGED HEALTH CARE IS COMING IN APRIL

In 2013, the Washington State Legislature directed the Health Care Authority to "…transfer children receiving medical care provided through fee-for-service to medical care provided through managed care."
The new program will begin April 1.
Through a competitive bidding process, the Authority selected Coordinated Care as the successful bidder to operate the single managed-care plan to provide physical and behavioral healthcare services to:

- Children and youth in the placement and care authority of DSHS.
- Youth participating in Extended Foster Care up to age 21.
- Youth who age out of foster care up to age 26.
- Children and youth in the Adoption Support Program up to age 21.

Note: Children in the care and custody of a federally recognized tribe in Washington may choose to enroll in Coordinated Care, another Apple Health managed-care plan, or remain with fee-for-service.
Coordinated Care's health plan at a glance

- Nurse helpline for caregivers and caseworkers – available 24/7.
- Recruitment of healthcare providers who understand trauma and have experience treating abused and neglected children.
- Healthcare coordination services for all enrollees to ensure access and appropriate care for the child/youth.
- Healthcare coordination for enrollees with multiple or complex healthcare needs.
- Extra programs to support better health outcomes, such as access to an online health library, wellness programs, maternity program, no-cost cell phones and more.
- Statewide access to coordinated medical and behavioral healthcare services through a network of providers (doctors, nurses, pharmacies, hospitals, clinics, psychiatrists, therapists and similar fields.)

CONNECT WITH YOUR TEEN, PARTICIPATE IN A STUDY, EARN CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Do you have a teen or pre-teen aged 11-15 in your care? Do you want to improve your relationship and encourage healthy choices?

Researchers from the University of Washington are working in collaboration with DSHS/Children's Administration and the Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence to identify ways to help foster teens and their caregivers get along well and make healthy choices.
The program begins in winter 2016, and they are looking for participants.
Researchers have adapted a parenting curriculum and created "Connecting" as a tool for youth in foster care and their foster or relative caregivers. "Connecting" is designed to help strengthen family relationships and may help families develop skills that will reduce the risk of drug use, risky sexual behavior, and violence among teens.

Caregivers will learn how to:

* Talk to your teen about the important people in their lives.
• Communicate with one another effectively.
• Talk about family expectations.
• Be sensitive to LGBTQ youth in your care.
• Learn many other helpful parenting strategies.

The Connecting program consists of a DVD and a workbook with step-by-step activities that families can complete at their own pace in a timeframe of eight-to-11 weeks. It is completely free for families.

Who is eligible?

Caregivers and the pre-teen/teen(s), aged 11-15, residing in their care.

What do I do?
Caregivers and teens are asked to complete three surveys each, receive weekly support phone calls from a researcher and complete the Connecting program activities.
How long do I participate?
The Connecting program will take three to four months. Researchers also will continue to follow up with families once a year for two years. Each caregiver and teen will receive $25 per survey in compensation. Caregivers also are eligible for continuing education credit.

How can I get involved?

Contact your child's social worker or one of the researchers listed below.

• Kevin Haggerty, MSW, PhD Principal Investigator, University of Washington School of Social Work Social Development Research Group (SDRG) (206) 543.3188; haggerty@uw.edu

• Susan Barkan, PhD Co-Investigator University of Washington School of Social Work Partners for Our Children (POC), (206) 221-3124; barkas@uw.edu

Why Connecting?

Here are some quotes from foster parents who went through the material with their teens:
• "This is an awesome program that ALL families should do!"
• "I was really apprehensive at first... Now, it's awesome!"
• "The program creates a lot of opportunities to open the lines of communication."
• "The Digital Stories resulted in wonderful, deep conversations. [My teen] opened up about things she had never talked about before. There's just a lot more openness."
• "[This program] covers interesting info that gets missed on a day-to-day basis between crisis and busyness."
• "We learned something about each other and found common interests".
• "[This program] addresses real and relevant issues and facilitates openings for families to talk about topics that can be hard to approach."
• "It helped my teen come out of her shell."
• "Foster families come in blind – we need more information and tools like this."
• "We learned things about each other that we didn't know, and that helped us communicate more."
• "Things are night-and-day different from where we were a year ago. This helped guide us through it."
• "The examples and videos related to our situation and made us feel like we're not alone."

LEGAL ADVOCACY FOR YOUTH

By Alicia LeVezu

Equal Justice Works Fellow, sponsored by Perkins Coie LLP and Intel*lectual Ventures, with the Access to Counsel Project at the Children and Youth Advocacy Clinic, University of Washington School of Law.*

Madison – not her real name – is a 14-year-old girl in foster care. Despite being legally free for adoption, she had been in foster care for many years and was moved multiple times before being placed in a group home.
Madison ended up running away from the group home, but thankfully, she had an attorney. Madison shared with her attorney that she wanted to move back to a foster home she had lived in several years before. Madison's attorney was able to file several motions on her behalf, including a motion for visitation with her former foster family. The court ordered that Madison be allowed to have visits with her former foster family.
After everyone saw how well the visits went between Madison and her former foster family, all agreed that Madison should be allowed to live with that family. She has now been living with this family for over six months and they plan to adopt her.
Each county in Washington has different processes for appointing attorneys to represent dependent youth, but all children and all caregivers in Washington have the right to request that an attorney be appointed to represent a child.
Although the State Legislature made this clear in 2014, caregivers often are unaware of their right and the youth's right to request an attorney. And many are unaware of what an attorney can do for a child.
When an attorney is appointed to represent a dependent youth in Washington, the attorney is charged with advocating for the youth's position – what the young person wants out of the case. This is different than a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) or a GAL (Guardian Ad Litem), whose jobs are to advocate for what they think is best for the child.
Additionally, attorneys are trained to use the tools of the legal system to focus the court's attention on the needs and legal rights of the child. Once appointed, attorneys for youth should maintain regular contact with their youth client, conduct appropriate investigations into the child's situation and advocate for services on behalf of the child.
If a child of any age in your care is interested in requesting an attorney, caregivers also have the right to refer that child to an attorney to help them make that request.
The Access to Counsel Project at the University of Washington School of Law helps young people in foster care request an attorney on their case. In some situations, the Access to Counsel Project can also assist foster parents and caregivers who are seeking to request counsel for a dependent youth.

The Access to Counsel Project can be reached by phone at (206) 685-8680 or email, alicia22@uw.edu

REMINDERS

CAREGIVER MILEAGE

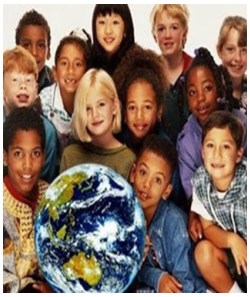
It's time to submit your monthly mileage form to your social worker.

If you have questions about allowable mileage use this link

http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ms/forms/07_090.pdf.

Please remember:

Children's does not reimburse for mileage over 90 days old.



WARNING: BEWARE OF SCAM PHONE CALLS ABOUT THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARSHIP

Staff members from the Wenatchee Division of Children and Family Services Office have notified Children's Administration management that a youth in care recently received a scam phone call regarding the Governor's Scholarship. The scholarship is offered through the College Success Foundation.

The caller asked for the youth for a debit card number so money from the foundation could be directly deposited into her account. This youth was smart and savvy, and she did not give it to them. Instead, she tried to get a number to call them back or to have them call back. They wouldn't cooperate.

We are warning caregivers to talk with the youth in their care about this scam.

The College Success Foundation provides many benefits to youth in care.

You can use the link, www.collegesuccessfoundation.org to learn more about the scholarship and the other programs they offer.

SAVE THE DATE

WE ARE FAMILY DAY 2016

The 8th annual We Are Family Day event with the Seattle Marines baseball at Seattle's Safeco Field will be Sunday, May 1, the first day of Foster Care Month and the month in which Kinship Care Day is celebrated. In 2015, more than 2,800 people purchased tickets to this popular event.

As has become tradition, at 10 a.m. we'll have a pre-game ceremony. Discounted tickets, which will be available online next spring, will be for the 1:10 p.m. game against the Kansas City Royals, who won World Series this year.

More information will be made available through the Caregiver Connection in the months leading up to We Are Family Day.

Additional Resources

Washington State's Kinship Navigators

Helping grandparents and relatives raising children
Locate information, resources, and a link to your local Kinship Navigator for support at:

https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/kinship-care-support-services

Foster Intervention Retention and Support Team (FIRST)

Offers neutral third party advice and support for foster parents when dealing with allegations or a licensing violation.

Statewide Contact Info:
Phone
253-219-6782

Email:
FIRST@olivecrest.org

Fostering Well-Being Care Coordination Unit (FWB CCU)

FWB CCU can help answer health-related questions or help you with health related issues for children/youth in your care.
Contact information:

1-800-422-3263 ext. 52626 or
360-725-2626
(8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.) or
e-mail: fwbccu@dshs.wa.gov.

FPAWS

Foster Parent Association of Washington State FPAWS is an all volunteer, non-profit association, led by experienced caregivers who provide support and helpful services to all caregivers (foster, adoptive, and kinship) in Washington State.

Contact FPAWS at

www.fpaws.org
1- 800-391-CARE (2273).

FOSTER PARENT AND CAREGIVER CRISIS AND SUPPORT LINE:

1-800-301-1868

Foster Care Critical Support and Retention Program

This program was developed to help retain foster parents who care for sexually reactive children, physically assaultive children, or children with other high-risk behaviors. Short term therapeutic and educational interventions are available to help support the stability of the placement.

This service is free of charge and is provided through Olive Crest. Contact the child's worker if a referral would help you in handling the behaviors of the child in your home.

If you would like to learn more about the available services contact Kathleen Walter, Olive Crest's Critical Support Clinician

425-1612 ext. 1356 or
Kathleen-walter@olivecrest.org

Meet Our Recruitment Partners Who Support You

Children's Administration (CA) works in partnership with two separate agencies to provide foster parent recruitment and retention / support services to prospective foster parents, current foster parents and relative caregivers in all areas of Washington. Our goals are to:

- Increase the numbers of safe, quality foster families to meet the diverse needs of children and youth placed in out-of-home care in Washington State, and
- Offer support to foster parents and relative caregivers

Prospective foster parents are welcome to license through either CA's Division of Licensed Resources (DLR), or any private child placing agency licensed in Washington. Our recruitment partners serve all families, regardless of where they choose to become licensed.

fostering together
Our Community...Our Children

Olive Crest's Fostering Together program supports the west side of the state (Regions 2 and 3) through foster care Liaisons.

Eastern Washington University's Fostering Washington program supports (Region 1) the east side of the state through Resource Peer Mentors (RPMs),

The Liaisons or RPMs provide information, help and guidance for you from your first inquiry, through training, and throughout the licensing process to become foster parents. Liaisons and RPMs both answer questions and share helpful information during your foster care journey. They offer:

- Support at your first placement,
- Support groups , (some with training hours available and some provide a meal and / or child care)
- Mentoring,
- Training, and
- On-line Facebook groups

All supports are designed with our caregivers in mind. We want to help you connect with other caregivers, obtain additional training, and find answers to questions. Both Olive Crest and Eastern Washington University offer information and referral services to foster parents and relative caregivers. The regional liaisons or peer mentors also help resolve issues foster parents may experience in their local area. Contact the liaison or RPM listed for your area with any questions you might have.

EWU's Fostering Washington Resource Peer Mentors (RPMs)

Region 1:

Last Name	First Name	Email	Counties	Phone
Boorman	Lisa	lboorman@ewu.edu	Grant, Adams	(208) 484-5725
Christensen	Jennifer	jchristensen6@ewu.edu	Walla Walla, Columbia	(509) 629-1262
Flowers	Meaghan	mflowers1@ewu.edu	Spokane, Lincoln	(509) 991-9692
Harris	Ruth	rharri28@ewu.edu	Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille	(509) 675-8888
Muse	Mon Ra'	mmuse@ewu.edu Assistant Director	Spokane, Whitman, Garfield, Asotin	(509-359-0791
Morehead	LeDeana	lmorehead@ewu.edu	Chelan, Douglas	(509) 670-7270
Powers	Druska (Dru)	dpowers@ewu.edu First Program Manager	R1 North and South	(509) 230-9608
Sherman	Amber	asherman4@ewu.edu Regional Coordinator	Spokane, Pend Orielle, Stevens, Ferry	(425) 422-6557
White	Wendy	wwhite@ewu.edu	Chelan, Douglas	(509) 731-2060
Hancock	Windy	whancok2@ewu.edu	Richlan, Benton	(509)528-6392 (h) (509) 322-1191 (c)
Curbow	Staci	scurbow@ewu.edu	Kennewick, Benton	(509) 308-2950 (h) (509) 308-2950 (c)
Crossley	Cheryl	ccrossley1@ewu.edu	Zillah - Yakima	(509) 985-7038
Acosta	Mirna	amirna@ewu.edu	Yakima – Yakima (Spanish speaking)	(509) 307-3628
Lesley	Molly	mohallor@ewu.edu	Spokane – Spokane	(509) 326-6250
Moon	Lori	lmoon4@ewu.edu	Sunnyside – Yakima	(509) 882-4996
Rogers	Linda	lrogers13@ewu.edu	Spokane- Spokane	(509) 389-7192
Cammack	Heather	hcammack24@ewu.edu	Colfax – Whitman	(509) 288-0207
Thompson	Karen	kthomps9@ewu.edu	Spokane – Spokane Valley	(509) 230-4668
Bludau	Melike	mbludau@ewu.edu	Spokane- Spokane	(509) 714-7728
Farnsworth	Chrystal	cfarnsworth1@ewu.edu	Cle Elum- Kittitas	(509) 304-7000
Tajeda	Brittney	btejeda@ewu.edu	Richland- Benton	(509) 438-9608
Stoebner	Hayley	hstoebner@ewu.edu Regional Coordiantor	Leavenworth- Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Okanogan	(509) 322-1191 (c)
Whitworth	Tyann	twhitworth@ewu.edu REGIONAL COORDINATOR	Yakima, Kittitas, Klickitat, Columbia, Walla Walla, Franklin, Benton	(509) 731-2060

Olive Crest's Fostering Together Liaisons: Region 2:

Last Name	First Name	Email	Counties	Phone
Crow	Shala	Shala-Crow@olivecrest.org Program Director	Region 2	(360) 220-3785
Parra	Deena	Deena-Parra@olivecrest.org FIRST PROGRAM MANAGER	Region 2	360-572-4271
McClure	Leilani	Leilani-McClure@olivecrest.org	NE King County	425-681-2094
Anderson	Maia	Maia-anderson@olivecrest.org	South King County	425-346-8336
Moran	JoAnne	Joanne-Moran@olivecrest.org	King West County, MLK, White Center	206-856-8533
Harp	Megan	Megan-Harp@olivecrest.org	Smokey Point	425-350-3839
Buckles	Summer	Summer-Buckles@olivecrest.org	Everett, Sky Valley and Lynnwood	425-830-9400
Pitts-Long	Angela	Angela-Pitts-Long@olivecrest.org	Central District	425-614-6176
Uratsun	Christina	Christina-Urtasun@olivecrest.org	Island, San Juan, Skagit and Whatcom	360-720-0969

Olive Crest's Fostering Together Liaisons: Region 3:

Last Name	First Name	Email	Counties	Phone
Marshel	Leeann	Leeann-marshel@olivecrest.org REGIONAL DIRECTOR	Region 3 Coordinator	360-909-0421
Fowler	Michelle	Michelle-Fowler@olivecrest.org	Support Assistant for Region 3	360-772-1955
Thompson	Erika	Erika-Thompson@olivecrest.org	Pierce	206-406-2398
Johns	Jeanie	Jeanie-Johns@olivecrest.org	Kitsap	360-265-3398
Hatzenbuehler	Niki	Niki-Hatzenbuehler@olivecrest.org	Mason and Thurston	253-219-3355
Cortani	Linda	Linda-Cortani@olivecrest.org	Jefferson and Clallam	360-640-0869
Mitchell	Tristan	Tristan-mitchell@olivecrest.org	Grays Harbor & Pacific	360-581-3590
Favela	Niki	Niki-Favela@olivecrest.org	Cowlitz, Lewis and Wahkiakum	708-653-8912
Glover	Kim	Kim-Gover@olivecrest.org	Clark and Skamania	360-433-7150

Alliance
for Child Welfare Excellence

Caregiver Training

The Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence provides training for foster parents, relatives, and prospective adoptive parents who are providing care to children placed in their homes by the Children's Administration.

The Course Schedule provides easy access to scheduled trainings in your community.

To register for a course you can visit our website at:

www.allianceforchildwelfare.org and click on the Course Schedule.

The first time, and only once, you will be asked to set up a *profile* account. Follow the instructions for setting up an account. When you create a profile you will receive an email to set up your *password*. This is an important step. Leave the website, review your email and create a password.

Once a password is created you are ready to register for courses.

For any questions, please email registration@allianceforchildwelfare.org

For caregivers that do not have a computer or need assistance registering for classes, the Alliance has registrars available to help you, including a Spanish speaking registrar. For assistance, please call 1-866-577-1915 and leave a message for a registrar in your Region. A registrar will contact you and help you with your registration.

The Alliance has now added new onLine (eLearning Trainings to our WebCatalog

NEW!

You can see the entire list at https://allianceforchildwelfare.org/course-catalog.

Notice the word eLearning after the title. This will help you in differienting between the in person and the on line class.

We have added the following caregiver eLearnings to the Catalog:

- Effects of Abuse and Neglect on Child Development (eLearning for Caregivers)
- Infant Safety and Care (eLearning for Caregivers)
- Introduction to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)(eLearning for Caregivers)
- Parent-Child Visitation (eLearning for Caregivers)
- So You Have Your First Placement: Now What (eLearning for Caregivers)
- Youth Missing From Care (eLearning for Caregivers)

Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence

TRAINERS IN YOUR REGION

REGION	NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
R1 Spokane & surrounding areas	**Jan Hinkle-Rodriguez, Supervisor** Leon Covington, Trainer Nancy Leigh, Trainer, Renee Siers, Trainer Kebbie Green, Registrar	janh5@uw.edu. leonc44@uw.edu Leighn2@uw.edu siersr@uw.edu	509-836-5499 509-846-8641 509-846-8645 509-363-3399 1-866-577-1915
R1 Yakima, Tri-Cities, Ellensburg & surrounding areas	Jan Hinkle-Rodriguez, Supervisor Ryan Krueger, Trainer Patty Orona Eileen Angier, Registrar Maria Amaya, Registrar – Spanish (Español)	janh5@uw.edu krry300@uw.edu po5@uw.edu	509-836-5499 509-358-3096 509-225-7927 1-866-577-1915 1-866-577-1915
R2 Seattle Metro Area	Yolonda Marzest, Supervisor El-Freda Stephenson, Trainer Cara Mbaye, Trainer Janice Jackson, Registrar	ymarzest@uw.edu elfreda@uw.edu mbayec@uw.edu	206-923-4955 206-923-4922 206-923-4914 1-866-577-1915
R2 Bellingham, Everett, Mount Vernon & surrounding areas	Yolonda Marzest, Supervisor Julie Gelo, Trainer Joan Sager, Trainer Julie Kerr, Registrar	ymarzest@uw.edu jkg@uw.edu sagerj2@uw.edu	206-923-4955 425-339-1811 360-594-6744 1-866-577-1915
R3 Tacoma, Bremerton, Puyallup & surrounding areas.	Arthur Fernandez-Scarberry, Supervisor Gracia Hahn, Trainer Luanne Hawley, Registrar	sart300@uw.edu hahng@uw.edu	206-276-4549 253-983-6362 1-866-577-1915
R3 Tumwater, Olympia, Centralia, Long Beach, South Bend, & surrounding areas.	Penny Michel, Trainer	mpen300@uw.edu	360-725-6788
R3 Clallam County and Jefferson County	Robert Judd, Trainer (Starts December 16, 2015)	juddre@uw.edu	
R3 Aberdeen, South Bend and Long Beach.	Stephanie Rodriguez, Trainer	steph75@uw.edu	206-321-1721
R3 Vancouver, Camas, Stevenson & Kelso.	Colleen Cornman-Wilcox, Trainer Kim Glover, Registrar	cm39@uw.edu	360-993-7991 1-866-577-1915