

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.

February 2015



"I'm inspired every day by the stories, the sacrifices, grandparents make to keep kids together,"

ROSALYN ALBER: INSPIRED BY THE FAMILIES SHE SERVES

In the building where she works at HopeSparks in Tacoma, Kinship Navigator Rosalyn Alber finds inspiration in the words on the wall: "Without changes there would be no butterflies."

HopeSparks is a non-profit designed to help grow healthy families. A large part of Rosalyn's job with the organization is to help Pierce County relative caregivers – usually grandparents – get the resources they need to support the children in their care. She helps run a clothing bank, Hope's Closet, and is in charge of a support group for relative caregivers. She also does community outreach and plans special events. Rosalyn said. Among them is a set of relative caregivers who are helping to raise 15 children. "That's a huge sacrifice," she said. "I can't even imagine doing that."

While about 44,000 children in Washington are being cared for by grandparents, that number doesn't count the many being raised by aunts and uncles, and, increasingly, by older brothers and sisters, Rosalyn said. By contrast, the number of children in foster care at any one time usually hovers around 9,000. A recent report prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau says that in 2012, about 2.7 million grandparents were "grandparent-caregivers," those with primary responsibility for children in their care. (To read more, go to

<http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p20-576.pdf>)

Relatives who are raising children in our state because their parents are unable to do so are helped by the Department of Social and Health

Services' Kinship Navigator Program. Ten Navigators provide services in 30 counties.

Rosalyn, 53, worked in several aspects of child welfare including stints as a foster/adoption licenser for Children's Home Society and at a residential treatment facility in Yakima. Before taking the post at Hope Sparks in 2007.

"Kinship" is the formal term used in the public child welfare system to describe older non-parent relatives who are raising younger relatives. Many relatives are motivated to provide care for young relatives for the same reason, Rosalyn says.

"Kinship families step up because they can't imagine a worse scenario than putting the kids in foster care. It's just families helping families. Historically, that's the way it's been." Having worked in both the foster care and kinship environments, she well understands how people in each caregiver population sometimes view the other negatively.

"I've seen all sides," Rosalyn says. "I hope I'm not as judging as I've seen some people be." She tries to focus on what both groups share: "Kids are the common ground." Whether in foster or relative care, those children often have the same behavioral and emotional issues, she said.

Being a kinship navigator seems to her like "the perfect combination of all the things I do;" finding and helping relatives provide many kinds of resources to people who span a huge range of ages, family situations, and resource needs such as clothing, financial assistance, and rent.

"I try to meet people where they are," Rosalyn said. And using the social worker maxim that "if you didn't document it, it didn't happen," she records every call or visit on a notepad, transferring the information into her computer before day's end.

Those days can stretch into long hours – 12 or more – especially when she is coordinating the clothing closet on Wednesday. Reaching out to the community, organizing social events such as holiday parties and barbecues, coordinating the support groups – all on top of being a one-stop troubleshooter – keeps her busy. She wouldn't have it any other way.

"I'm not doing the work – the families are doing the work," she says. "The kids are so important. I love what I do. I truly get inspired every day."



Frame on the desk of Rosalyn's colleague Jesie Holden.

"THINGS LIKE THAT JUST DON'T HAPPEN TO KIDS LIKE ME"

Beverly, soon to be 16, lives with her grandparents Kathy and Mike in Lacey. They earlier connected with Family Education and Support Service (FESS), based in Olympia. Much like HopeSparks, FESS helps relatives get the resources they need, usually working with Kinship Navigator Lynn Urvina.



Poised and articulate, Beverly was a winner in the "Voices of Children Being Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives," competition sponsored by FESS. She has twice attended events honoring kinship caregivers hosted by Washington's First Lady Trudi Inslee at the Governor's Mansion. In November, at the most recent event, she shared this speech.

"My family lived in a huge house. Five bedrooms in a nice neighborhood. Sounds great, right? It wasn't. The electric and water were always turned off. My mom was a drug addict and never home. That meant I had to take care of my sick grandmother while being the mom to my brother and sister. We didn't always have food. I was only 10. That was five years ago. Living with my grandparents now is amazing. It was probably the best thing that could have happened to me. My grandparents try to give us three children the world. Grampa may be grumpy a lot, but I know that I'm still loved. Gramma teaches me new things all the time. Especially what's ladylike and what's not. Many other lessons, as well. They show me many things every day, from easier ways to do chores to how to dress properly.

One thing Gramma did for me that meant the most was showing me I'm loved and she cares about me, and I won't grow up to be my mom. I've never felt that before. They showed me I'm special. They may be crazy, looney, strict, grumpy, loving, different, wild, but they're unique, and I'm glad their mine.

Most kids don't get to be the mom at 10, or take care of their sick grandmothers, or worry about where the next meal will come from. Most kids don't worry about how to wash the dishes with no water, or stay warm with no heat. But I did. And because of that, I came to live with my grandparents. Now I have life goals and I know that I can really succeed. I know that

nothing in this world will be just handed to me. But I can do anything. Like Gramma said, it's all up to me.

So now, here we are, four years later and still living with my grandparents for many reasons.

Mom has been clean now for over two years, but there's still a lot of things she has to work on so that she can stay sober. Would we still be living with Gramma and Grampa if we didn't have

Family Education and Support Services? Probably. But

with Family Education and Support Services, the Kinship Program, things went a little more smoothly for us. This program helped us pay some bills that needed to be paid. They gave my gramma a support group and were there to talk when she felt overwhelmed. They helped get us new clothes that really fit. My family got to go to Great Wolf Lodge because I won the Voices of the Children contest. And I got to meet the governor's wife and have tea with her. Many amazing things have happened because of the Kinship program, like getting to speak in front of all of you and being invited back to the Governor's Mansion two years in a row.

NEW VIDEO HELPS VIEWERS LEARN MORE ABOUT RELATIVE CAREGIVING

Family Education and Support Services, has produced a video in which relative caregivers discuss their experiences with caring for grandchildren, nieces, nephews or younger siblings.

To see it, click on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-53OUogh8&feature=youtu.be>

DSHS describes these invaluable resource people this way: "Kinship Navigators serve as a one-stop shop, providing resources, information, assistance and support to relatives who are living on limited incomes, are often overwhelmed and do not know where to turn for support."

According to DSHS figures, last fiscal year, the Kinship Navigator Program served a total of 1,982 kinship caregivers who were raising 3,355 children, providing 7,154 instances of assistance.

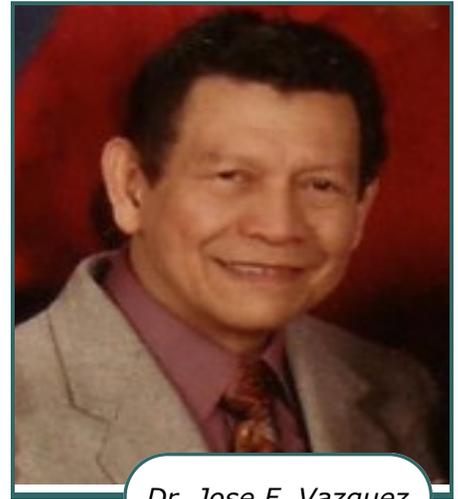
Program funding is distributed to Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), where staff members deliver the services directly or contract with local community service agencies to do so. The top three requests of caregivers were for help paying for emergent needs, caregiver support groups and legal referrals.

Here is the link to learn more about this program:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/f2ws03apps/kinship/kinshipmap.asp>

Grief and loss

Dealing with the Pain



Dr. Jose F. Vazquez

For Dr. Jose Vasquez, the benefits of providing grief and loss counseling first became apparent in the late 1980s, as he worked in a unit of people trying to staunch the flow of social workers leaving the ranks of the Los Angeles County child welfare system.

“We were losing so many workers,” he said. They were ill-equipped to face the issues of grief and loss in the traumatic cases they handled. He and his colleagues began providing help in dealing with these feelings and the exodus of social workers slowed, he said.

It was then he realized that people caring for children placed in their homes through foster care shared the same issues with the social workers he was trying to help.

“How many good people – foster parents – do we lose because of grief and loss?” Vasquez asked. “The kids move, and they (foster parents) throw in the towel.”

“I found out that there is much pain being held in by foster parents,” he said. His research revealed that foster parents, like social workers, can rationalize, but the pain is real. Grief and loss affect everyone, and foster parents are, if anything, more vulnerable because they know the kids are going to be taken away.”

Vasquez, who now has a private practice in Olympia, also does training on grief and loss in Vancouver and Tacoma through the University of Washington’s Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence. The Alliance coordinates training for foster parents and potential foster parents in our state.

He says he hopes his training will show others in the child welfare community the value of recognizing the issue and of trying to give caregivers the necessary tools and support they need to work through those feelings. He would like to see the training provided statewide.



“It’s ingrained in the culture that nobody gets the time to grieve,”

Like much of society, he says, foster parents do not tend to deal with their grief and loss, even though their vulnerability is heightened by knowing children will be removed from their home at some point. Foster parents face a unique set of emotions, frustrations and upsets because the child they loved and cared for is moving.

“It is a bunch of mixed emotions foster parents must deal with, and as human beings, mixed emotions are tough to deal with.” Many people just won’t deal with their feelings, even when they affect them and their daily lives and actions. Compounding the problem, he says, American culture doesn’t allow for a helpful grieving process.

“Our society is geared to gains, to getting more, to doing more,” Vasquez said. “But people don’t tell us what to do when we lose people, lose things.”

Other cultures allow time for grieving to occur, he said

“It’s ingrained in the culture that nobody gets the time to grieve,” he said. “A relative dies, and we get maybe two days and we are expected to be normal again. A griever is like a pest – you want it to go away.”

With foster parents and social workers, the loss usually involves children. But, said Vasquez, “a loss is a loss,” - be it a long-time pet or a child or even a possession.

He recalls how attached he was to a pair of sandals he put on each day for seven years after he came home from work. His wife bought him a new pair for Christmas, throwing out the old ones. He missed them, and while it may sound trivial, even circumstances like these can prompt feelings of loss.

Even if foster parents don’t recognize it, he said, “Loss is cumulative, and one loss can trigger memories of other losses, all the way back to the first one.”

For foster parents, grief and loss is compounded by repeated events of children coming in and out of their lives, he said.

Those feelings also can get magnified by what others around them say – things like, “Yes, this one child is gone, but you will get another one.”

Again, mixed emotions come into play, he said. “Your brain tells you ‘I know I will get another one,’ but your gut is hurting. You can’t replace one child with another.”

What does he recommend?

One of the most important actions you should take in dealing with grief and loss is acknowledging it.

As a human being, you have the ability to handle the pain, but first you have to accept the pain. People say ‘get over it,’ but you really never get over it. Relationships will be with you forever. You can’t kill the loss, ever.”

And the longer and more intense the relationship, the more difficult the loss and the grief that accompanies it, he says.

While the feelings they experience are akin to those felt after someone close to us dies, in the kind of grief and loss foster parents experience, it is important not to expect to go through the five stage of grief that accompany death, Vasquez says.

“This is not death and dying.”

Instead, foster parents need to spill out their loss to others who understand what they need. Connecting with an individual or small group of people who can be a listening post when you need emotional support is important, he said.

“What a person grieving a loss needs is not to be fixed, but to be listened to.”

People who provide the support should be trained not to say the wrong things, such as

“you’ll get another child” or “get over it.”

“Shut up and listen,” Vasquez advises those who are trying to give emotional support.

Support groups around the state are a good place for people to get initial training about grief and loss, he said. He also recommends two small books, “The Grief and Recovery Handbook,” 20th edition, and “When Children Grieve.”

Above all else, caregivers need to face their loss so they can begin to deal with it, he says.

“You’re dealing with (a culture) that resists dealing with it. But don’t minimize your loss.

You can’t run away from yourself.”

Finding Training and Support



The Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence at the University of Washington provides training for caregivers in the support of children in their care. Information about trainings in your area and other helpful information can be found at www.allianceforchildwelfare.org.

Another organization, Fostering Together, a branch of Olive Crest, provides recruitment and support services for caregivers of children in state custody. Fostering Together has established dozens of support groups around the state to bring foster parents together, further their training and answer their questions. It also has Facebook pages to share knowledge and help foster parents find resources.

You can find information at www.fosteringtogether.org

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BECOME A FOSTER PARENT



Share this message with others!

Throughout Washington, foster parents are needed to love, coach, mentor, wipe tears, celebrate, support and encourage children and youth living outside their home due to abuse and neglect.

Could you, your family or a friend make a difference in the life of a child?

Maybe you could even deal with some teen drama!

Are you ready to learn more about becoming a foster family?

Washington's foster parent recruitment phone line, 1-888-KIDS-414, provides information and can answer many of your or your friends' questions. Take a minute to call, because you don't know what you're missing!

Information on becoming a foster parent also is available at the Children's Administration website:

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/> or www.fosteringtogether.org.

Children's Administration encourages caregivers to submit their mileage forms each month, as it helps ensure timely processing of your reimbursement.

February is a short month and Friday, February 27th is the last day you can submit your monthly mileage form to the child's worker, for travel that took place in November 2014.

Your form must be turned in within three calendar months from the last day of the month your first travel took place. If you have questions about allowable mileage, use this link:

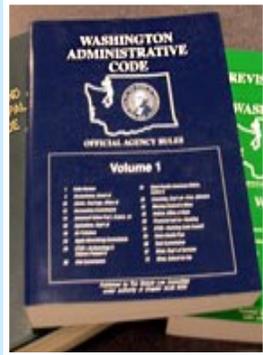
http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ms/forms/07_090.pdf.

Please remember you will not be reimbursed for mileage more than 90 days old.

Beginning January 1, 2015 the amount reimbursed to caregivers for mileage has increased to .575 cents per mile.



MONTHLY
MILEAGE



NEW REGULATIONS

Changes have been made to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) that affect foster parents, caregivers and child welfare agencies.

The links below are to the new policies, which went into effect on Jan. 11 after a public comment period.

The WACs were updated to make them easier to read and understand; group care and agency regulations were separated from the foster care requirements. The WACs also include changes to state law and agency policy.

Here are the links:

388-148 Child Foster Homes

[WAC-388-148](#)

388-145 Group Care Facilities

[WAC-388-145](#)

388-147 Child-placing Agencies and Adoption Services

[WAC-388-147](#)



Registration is underway for the annual Pacific Northwest Caregivers Conference,

Sponsored by the Foster Parents Association of Washington State (FPAWS).

Conference provides training and networking opportunities, and will honor social workers, child advocates and caregivers at the Night of Shining Stars on May 16.

Nomination forms for individuals or groups can be found at the FPAWS website, www.fpaws.org, where detailed information about the conference also can be found.



CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION HAS A NEW LINK TO THEIR WEB PAGE:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/CA>.

The Foster Parent link is:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/foster-parenting>



"Caregivers and their families enjoy a previous We Are Family Day At Safeco

Foster Care Month and Kinship Caregiver Day will be celebrated for the seventh year with We Are Family Day, **April 26 at Safeco Field.**

In collaboration with the Seattle Mariners, private organizations and others, Children’s Administration will use the event to kick off the annual May recognition events for caregivers. For several years, May has been designated national and state Foster Care Month. Another day of recognition, Kinship Caregiver Day, will be celebrated May 20 in Washington.

Since We Are Family Day was created in 2009, more than 9,200 people have taken advantage of the discounted seating prices and enjoyed pre-game ceremonies at Safeco Field that honor caregivers.

“The thing I like the best is that the Mariners go so out of their way to show how they really appreciate foster parents and other caregivers. And I really like that all the foster parents can get together.” says foster parent Amy Gardner of Kelso, who helps organize the event.

The day begins this year with a ceremony at 10 a.m. at Safeco’s Ellis Pavilion. Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. on the First Avenue side of the facility, near the sign for third base entry.

The ceremony will include a raffle of numerous baskets donated by organizations and individuals. The Mariners will be giving away commemorative We Are Family Day T-shirts.

As in recent years, young people will speak about their experiences in foster, relative and adoptive care. Assistant Secretary for Children’s

Have a ball at Safeco Field

Administration Jennifer Strus also will speak.

After the ceremony, one of the kids will be chosen to throw the game’s ceremonial first pitch.

The Mariner Moose is expected to appear during the pre-game ceremony, and 12 people will have an opportunity to get their picture taken with the Moose on the field.

Representatives from various organizations will have information about foster care and caregiver support at tables along the 100-level walkway behind the bullpen.

Discounted ticket prices are being offered at two levels. Tickets for the 300-level will be \$12; those for the 100-level closer to the field, \$27. To purchase tickets, go to www.mariners.com/wearefamily.

Anyone planning to purchase 10 or more tickets can contact Mariners employee Elizabeth McCloskey at (206) 346-4519 or emccloskey@mariners.com.

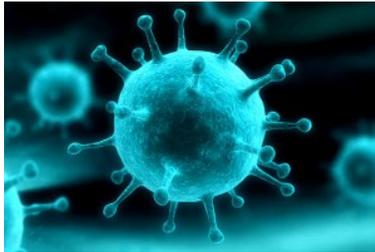
A new website feature this year allows people purchasing larger amounts of tickets to access the link to the game and designate which seats they would like.

Individuals or organizations who would like to donate a raffle basket or who are interested in reserving an information table can contact Amy at (360) 200-2102 or michaelamy52@msn.com

For more information about the event, please contact Meri Waterhouse at (360) 902-8035 or meri.waterhouse@dshs.wa.gov ;



INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOUT INFLUENZA



The follow answers to Frequently Asked Questions about influenza was provided by the Division of Licensed Resources of Children's Administration

What exactly is influenza?

Influenza (also known as the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and can cause death. Influenza is not a cold. Influenza usually comes on suddenly. People who have Influenza often feel some or all of these symptoms: Fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headaches, and fatigue. Most people who get influenza will recover in a few days to less than two weeks, but some people will develop complications (such as pneumonia) as a result of influenza.

Infants and small children are more vulnerable to serious influenza. They can get pneumonia, bronchiolitis and they are more likely to die from the disease.

Anyone can get influenza (even healthy people), and serious problems related to influenza can happen at any age, but some people are at high risk of developing serious complications. This includes people 65 years and older, people of any age with certain chronic

medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), pregnant women, and young children.

Why should I get a flu shot?

Getting the flu shot makes it less likely that you're going to get the flu, and it makes it less likely that people in your family and community are going to get the flu.



There are many strains of the flu. Sometimes the vaccine doesn't target all of the current strains, but it can protect you from other strains, and reduces hospitalizations and death. Getting vaccinated every year is important to make sure you have immunity to the strains most likely to cause an outbreak.

Should I get a flu shot when I'm pregnant?

Yes, not only is it safe, it could save you or your baby's life. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly recommends a flu shot for pregnant women. The flu shot is made with inactivated (killed) virus. Pregnant women should not receive the nasal-spray flu vaccine, which is made with live (weakened) virus.

Can I get the flu from the flu shot?

No, it is impossible for the flu vaccine to give you the flu. Flu vaccines contain dead virus, and a dead virus can't infect you. The nasal vaccine contains live virus, but the virus is specially made to remove the parts of the virus that make people sick.

Is the "stomach flu" really the flu?

Many people use the term "stomach flu" to describe illnesses with nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. The flu is a respiratory disease and not a stomach or intestinal disease.

I'm really concerned about the mercury contained in the flu vaccine.

Vaccines that come from a single dosage vial contain no added mercury. Shots that come from multiple dose vials do contain a trace of chemical preservative but the amount is inconsequential.

Aren't flu vaccines dangerous?

There is growing mistrust about flu vaccines. The fact is that vaccines are the greatest medical advance in history. They've prevented more illness and death than any treatment.

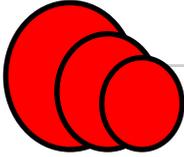
Can I get the flu vaccine if I'm allergic to eggs?

Yes, there are flu vaccines that don't contain egg proteins, approved for use in adults age 18 and older. And even flu vaccines that do have egg proteins can be given safely to most people with an egg allergy. If you have questions or concerns, you should talk directly to your health care provider.

Are there websites where I can find additional information?

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has an excellent website: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/fag/flu-season.htm>





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://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/f2ws03apps/kinship/kinshipmap.asp>

FOSTER PARENT AND CAREGIVER CRISIS AND SUPPORT LINE:

1-800-301-1868

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 or 1-800-391-CARE (2273).

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.

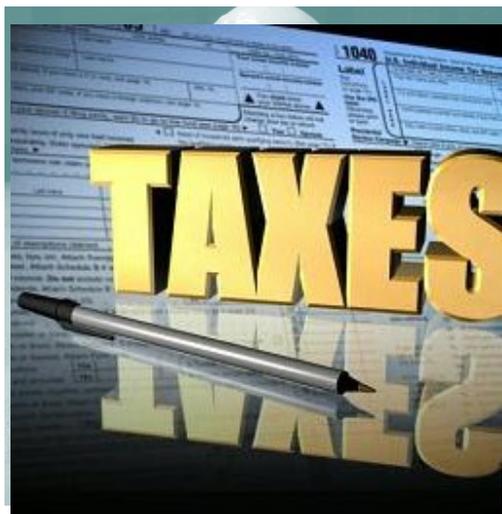
- ⇒ EASTERN WASHINGTON (Region 1) call 509-928-6697
- ⇒ WESTERN WASHINGTON (Regions 2 and 3) call 253-219-6782
- ⇒ Email (covers all of Washington) FIRST@olivecrest.org

TAX QUESTIONS



Foster parents may claim a tax deduction on certain foster care payments for children who have been placed in their care for more than half of the tax year. Foster parents will need the child's social security number (SSN) which can be obtained from the child's caseworker.

Children's Administration staff cannot provide tax advice.



The following resources are available for help:

1) The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 1-800-829-1040 or at www.irs.gov. IRS publication 501 provides information on Exemptions related to Dependents and Qualifying Children.

2) The DSHS Office of Accounting Services, Tax Desk (866) 563-8155 or taxinfo@dshs.wa.gov, can help providers and vendors with:

- ◆ Requests for copies of tax documents sent by DSHS to the provider.
- ◆ Address changes.
- ◆ Adjusting tax documents to reflect repayment of overpayments.
- ◆ IRS correspondence the provider has received about DSHS payments.





CA Foster Parent Consultation Team (1624) Regional Representatives - 2015

Regional representatives have been elected to serve in positions on the statewide Children’s Administration Foster Parent Consultation Team – informally known as the “1624 team” – for 2015.

Meeting four times a year with top-level CA management to discuss issues of statewide concern to foster parents, the representatives serve as the voices of foster parents to the management of Children’s Administration (CA). They also help coordinate regional consultation teams.

Name	E-mail	Phone
Melissa MacDougall, Reg. 1 North	MM@mplawpllc.com	509-846-6405
Kerry Bryant, Reg. 1 North	KB0254@AOL.COM	509-262-0728
Jessica Hanna, Reg. 1 South	Jhanna1124@gmail.com	509-899-3329
Audra Krussel, Reg. 1 South	Audra11@mindspring.com	208-340-9956
Shala Crow, Reg. 2 North	Shala-Crow@olivecrest.org	360-220-3785
Deena Parra, Reg. 2 North	Deena-Parra@olivecrest.org	360-572-4271
Shannon Mead, Reg. 2 South	Shannon.mead@gmail.com	206-856-1508
Joanne Moran, Reg. 2 South - Alternate	Joanne-Moran@olivecrest.org	206-856-8533
Gerald Donaldson, Reg. 2 South	gwdonaldson@seattleschools.org	425-488-6036
Talya Miller, Reg. 2 South - Alternate	Mytie5683@aol.com	206-786-1491
Michael Thomas, Reg. 3 North	mlthomas253@hotmail.com	253-298-1860
Matthew Wilke, Reg. 3 North	wilkemj@yahoo.com	253-651-1617
Ashleigh Barraza, Reg. 3 North - Alternate	ashleigh.barraza@yahoo.com	619-847-8370
Ryan Cook, Reg. 3 South	ryancook@comcast.net	360-953-8944
Amy Gardner, Reg. 3 South	michaelamy52@msn.com	360-200-2102
Beth Canfield, FPAWS	bethcanfield@comcast.net	360-990-1011
Mike Canfield, FPAWS	mkbeth@comcast.net	360-990-1255





Fostering Together Regional Recruitment and Retention Staff

Fostering Together liaisons are here to provide help and support to foster parents and relative caregivers all across Washington! Bring them your questions on training, licensing, finding resources or supports for new or challenging placements, or whenever you have a need. They are great at helping find what caregivers need. If you have questions contact those listed below for assistance – they are here to help you. Also, check out their website for much more information, www.fosteringtogether.org, and ask about their FaceBook on-line support groups in your area – they will help you get signed in.

REGION 1 NORTH

- ◆ Amber Sherman (Regional Coordinator and Spokane Liaison)
Amber-Sherman@olivecrest.org 509-499-2456
- ◆ Derek Cutlip (Community Involvement)
Derek-Cutlip@olivecrest.org 509-290-0406

FOSTER PARENT LIAISONS

- ◆ Meaghan Flowers (Spokane, Lincoln counties)
Meaghan-Flowers@olivecrest.org 509-991-9692
- ◆ Ruth Harris (Stevens, Pend Oreille and Ferry Counties)
Ruth-Harris@olivecrest.org 509-675-8888
- ◆ Wendy White (Wenatchee Chelan counties)
Wendy-White@olivecrest.org 425-422-6557
- ◆ Dena Drury (Whitman, Garfield, Asotin counties)
Dena-Drury@olivecrest.org 509-288-2639
- ◆ Melissa MacDougall (Okanogan county)
Melissa-MacDougall@olivecrest.org 509-322-5573
- ◆ Lisa Boorman (Grant, Adams counties)
Lisa-Boorman@olivecrest.org 208-484-5725

REGION 1 SOUTH

- ◆ Dru Powers (Regional Coordinator)
Dru-Powers@olivecrest.org 509-928-6697

FOSTER PARENT LIAISONS

- ◆ Michelle Broweleit (Kittitas County)
Michelle-Broweleit@olivecrest.org 509-899-2309
- ◆ Tyann Whitworth (Yakima and Klickitat Counties)
Tyann-Whitworth@olivecrest.org 509-656-4838
- ◆ Beth McCance (Benton and Franklin Counties)
Beth-McCance@olivecrest.org 509-380-4139
- ◆ Jennifer Christensen (Walla Walla and Columbia Counties)
Jennifer-Christensen@olivecrest.org 509-629-1262



Fostering Together Regional Recruitment and Retention Staff

REGION 2

Shala Crow (Reg. Coordinator / Community Involvement)
Shala-Crow@olivecrest.org 360-220-3785

Deena Parra (Support Assistant)
Deena-Parra@olivecrest.org 253-219-6782

FOSTER PARENT LIAISONS

- ◆ Leilani McClure (NE King county)
Leilani-McClure@olivecrest.org 425-681-2094
- ◆ Sheila Taie (Native American Community South King county)
Sheila-Taie@olivecrest.org 206-297-7434
- ◆ JoAnne Moran (West King county, Community Involvement)
Joanne-Moran@olivecrest.org 206-856-8533
- ◆ Angela Pitts-Long (Central District)
Angela-Pitts-Long@olivecrest.org 425-614-6176
- ◆ Christina Urtasun (Island, San Juan, Skagit and Whatcom Counties)
Christina-Urtasun@olivecrest.org 360-720-0969
- ◆ Megan Harp (Smokey Point and Everett)
Megan-Harp@olivecrest.org 425-350-3839
- ◆ Stephanie Hanson (Sky Valley)
Stephanie-Hanson@olivecrest.org 360-805-1094

REGION 3 NORTH

Leeann Marshel (Regional Coordinator)
Leeann Marshel@olivecrest.org 360-909-0421

Michelle Fowler (Support Assistant)
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FOSTER PARENT LIAISONS

- ◆ Erika Thompson (Pierce county)
Erika-Thompson@olivecrest.org 206-406-2398
- ◆ Althea Sanders (Pierce county Involvement)
Althea-Sanders@olivecrest.org 208-691-4502
- ◆ Jeanie Johns (Kitsap county)
Jeanie-Johns@olivecrest.org 360-265-3398
- ◆ Niki Hatzenbuehler (Mason and Thurston Counties)
Niki-Hatzenbuehler@olivecrest.org 253-219-3355
- ◆ Linda Cortani (Jefferson and Clallam Counties)
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- ◆ Brenda Taylor (Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties)
Brenda-Taylor@olivecrest.org 360-589-9383
- ◆ Niki Favela (Cowlitz, Lewis and Wahkiakum Counties)
Niki-Favela@olivecrest.org 708-653-8912
- ◆ Kim Glover (Clark and Skamania Counties)
Kim-Glover@olivecrest.org 360-433-7150

Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence

Training for current and potential new foster parents statewide is provided by [The Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence](#). Following is the Contact information for the Trainers in your Region. In addition, the [Alliance website](#) has updated training information for caregivers, along with other valuable information.

REGION	NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
R1 Spokane & surrounding areas	Jan Hinkle-Rodriguez, Supervisor Leon Covington, Trainer Nancy Leigh, Trainer, Renee Siers, Trainer Amber Sherman, Registrar	janh5@uw.edu leonc44@uw.edu Leighn2@uw.edu siersr@uw.edu trainingregistrar@gmail.com	509-836-5499 509-363-2410 509-846-8645 509-363-3399 509-363-4821
R1 Yakima, Tri-Cities, Ellensburg & surrounding areas	Jan Hinkle-Rodriguez, Supervisor Ryan Krueger, Trainer Eileen Angier, Registrar	janh5@uw.edu krry300@uw.edu	509-836-5499 509-358-3096 800-876-5195
R2 Bellingham, Everett, Mount Vernon & surrounding areas	Yolonda Marzest, Supervisor El-Freda Stephenson, Trainer Emma Nierman, Trainer	ymarzest@uw.edu elfreda@uw.edu enierman@uw.edu	206-923-4955 206-923-4922 206-923-9414
R2 Seattle Metro Area	Yolonda Marzest, Supervisor Julie Gelo, Trainer Joan Sager, Trainer	ymarzest@uw.edu jkg@uw.edu sagerj2@uw.edu	206-923-4955 425-339-1811 360-738-2305

ALLIANCE FOR CHILD WELFARE STAFF (continued...)



REGION	NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
R3 Tacoma, Bremerton, Puyallup & surrounding areas	Arthur Fernandez-Scarberry, Sup Linda Falcocchio, Trainer Luanne Hawley, Registrar	sart300@uw.edu falcol@uw.edu caregiver.training.tacoma@gmail.com	206-276-4549 253-983-6474 253-881-1207
R3 Tumwater, Olympia, Centralia, Long Beach, South Bend, & surrounding areas.	Penny Michel, Trainer Linda Bales, Registrar	mpen300@uw.edu resource.family.training.r3@gmail.com	360-725-6788 360-485-8146
R3 Aberdeen, Forks, Port Angeles & Shelton	Vacant		
R3 Vancouver, Camas, Stevenson & Kelso	Colleen Cornman-Wilcox, Trainer Kim Glover, Registrar	cm39@uw.edu ruregistered3@gmail.com	360-993-7991 360-326-3864

