

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.

JUNE 2015

“YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

By Celeste Diflaviano



Celeste Diflaviano, third from left, receives an award at May's caregiver conference, from co-emcee Rob McKenna. Also pictured are fellow award recipient Angie O'Neill, a social worker from Tacoma, second from left, and co-emcee Marilyn McKenna, left. Diflaviano and O'Neill are from

Don't ever doubt you made a difference
 From the minute I stepped foot into your house
 You showed you cared
 You did what you could to make me feel
 Welcomed, comfortable, safe, wanted
 I could not see it at that moment
 Because I was
 So scared, so hurt, so angry
 That my life fell apart
 My world forever changed
 Feeling like it was my fault
 With no control
 But you made a difference

With your day-to-day care
 I had food everyday
 A place to sleep which seems like nothing sometimes
 I was seen and noticed
 Even if I felt invisible, wanting to disappear,
 not to feel
 You made a difference

I was listened to,
 hugged when I let you
 You spoke many kind words,
 Telling me it will be OK
 I did not hear them at the time, at first
 They were hard to believe
 But you made a difference

Consistently showing me, reassuring me
 That you accepted me, even loved me
 There were many days of silence
 Could not look you in the eyes
 There were many days of anger
 Pushing you away
 Yelling, hitting, biting, kicking
 Telling you I hated you
 But really, I hated me
 I hated that this happened to me

There were many days of crying,
 although sometimes silently,
 there were many days of meltdowns, breaking things
 projecting the broken heart inside of me
 But you made a difference

Not giving up on me, although you could have
 You let me cry, you let me scream,
 sometimes held me when I woke up from a nightmare
 You knew I could overcome
 You knew I needed love

Then, finally days
 You saw me
 Smile, talk, and have fun
 Finally days of laughter
 Finally days of belief
 Of acceptance, worth, hope
 I finally felt safe, I knew I was loved

Then, there came the day I had to leave
 Although sometimes very quick,
 Sometimes months, sometimes years
 And sometimes forever, was your home
 But whichever one it maybe, if I could tell you one
 thing

Thanks for opening up your home
 Thanks for making me feel welcomed
 Thanks for making me feel safe
 Thanks for your hugs, your smiles, your words

Thanks always for your love
 So, please never doubt that you made a difference

Please keep making a difference

By Celeste Diflaviano

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WE ARE FAMILY DAY

HONORING FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Three major events this spring celebrated the good work done by those who care for – and care about – children:

- ◆ We Are Family Day, April 26;
- ◆ The 6th annual Pacific Northwest Caregiver’s Conference in mid-May; and
- ◆ The recognition ceremony for winners of the annual Voices of Children Raised By Grandparents and Other Relatives contest, May 20.

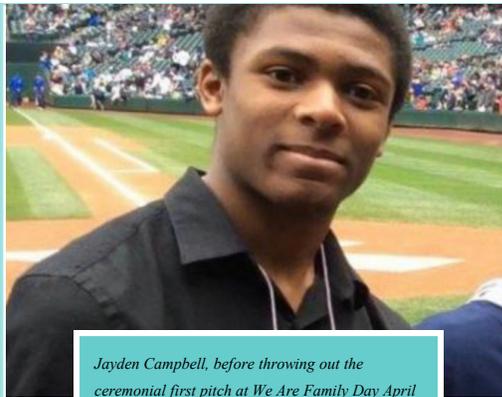
All three events helped say thank you to foster, relative and adoptive parents, and to the many individuals in the community who support them and the children they care for.

“There is no greater task than to ensure that all children living in foster care find a safe harbor in the homes of nurturing families who provide a meaningful and supporting presence in their lives,” said Governor Jay Inslee, proclaiming May as Foster Care Month.

At a pre-game ceremony on April 26, more than 250 people packed the Seattle Mariners Ellis Pavilion to hear words of appreciation honoring Washington caregivers. The crowd was the largest ever for the event.

Kids played with the Mariner Moose, who helped draw raffle ticket for the more than two dozen baskets contributed by individuals and groups.

Everyone received a free tee-shirt with the “We Are Family Day” logo, and families received passes to the Seattle Aquarium as Children’s Administration, and the Aquarium prepares to go public with a statewide distribution of tickets to caregivers.



Jayden Campbell, before throwing out the ceremonial first pitch at We Are Family Day April 26 at Seattle’s Safeco Field.

“It makes a huge difference to be able to see kids and caregivers come together to have a great time. It’s part of why we do what we do as social workers.”

“WHAT ARE YOU DOING IS A GIFT TO SO MANY PEOPLE. IT REALLY CHANGES LIVES. IN FACT, IT CHANGES THE WORLD”

David English

for pictures with families. The crowd also heard from former foster children whose lives have been shaped by their caregivers’ love.

“Without my foster parents I wouldn’t have the opportunities and the abilities they gave to me,” said David English. “The idea of discipline, of communication, showing that I care - all those things.”

Fifteen-year-old Jayden Campbell, a former foster child later adopted by his grandmother, was picked to throw out the first pitch. His pitch sailed high over the plate and his outgoing personality helped center the attention of those attending on the We Are Family event.

Gov. Inslee, himself, paid a surprise visit to thank DSHS staff and to chat with families enjoying the day. While “We Are Family Day” is meant to honor caregivers, it’s also designed to inspire others to consider becoming foster parents. Washington has a shortage of foster parents, and while caregiver is challenging, it can be a transformative experience.

About 2,800 people bought discounted tickets to We Are Family Day, tying it with the largest group ever and an increase of more than 2100 people from two years ago.

“This is great event,” Strus said. “It’s a wonderful way to thank foster parents for what they do.”

Caregiver Recruitment and Retention Program Manager Meri Waterhouse, who was instrumental in planning the event, said,

Washington First Lady Trudi Inslee attended, officially proclaiming May as Foster Care Month. Also making an appearance was the Mariner Moose, who helped hand out gift baskets to door-prize winners and delighted families by posing



CAREGIVERS CONFERENCE

It's not every day that you have a star named for you, but for this year's honorees at the annual Caregivers Conference in May, the recognition of a job well done was accompanied by a certificate proclaiming a star in the heavens named just for them.

Honored as "Luminaries" for their outstanding work on behalf of children in foster and relative care, 12 awardees were singled out at the Night of Shining Stars banquet and awards ceremony.

Other groups and individuals also were honored. Presenting this year's awards were Marilyn McKenna and her husband Rob, former Washington Attorney General, longtime supporters of caregivers in our state. The event was a highlight of the conference, sponsored by the Foster Parents Association of Washington State (FPAWS). The event, at Great Wolf Lodge south of Olympia, was guided by its theme, "Families and Friends Working Together."

Catherine McEnderfer, Spokane SW.

"She's really incredible, very persistent, and very much into sharing the successes with her colleagues, says Connie Lambert-Eckel, deputy assistant secretary for Children's Administration. "Her whole attitude is 'we can't do it alone.' And she has had some really significant successes."

Andrea Owen, a licenser from Richland:

For Andrea Owens, being a licenser in the Richland office "is not just a job," said Beth McNance. McNance works with her as a liaison with Fostering Together, which recruits and supports caregivers. "She really cares about our families and kids. It's not just a 9-5 job. She always does so much more than is required."

Pam Dawson, a licensing supervisor from Seattle:

Shala Crow, a Fostering Together liaison who works with her regularly, says "Pam works long hours, and many times after many have retired for the day. She has a passion for families and that shows in all she does."

Ryan Douglas, a licenser from Bellingham:

Foster parent Julie Kerr said Douglas, a state licenser in the Bellingham office, has "always done a really good job at whatever he does." "If it is younger kids, he did a great job. If it was teens, he did a great job. Now that he is a licenser, he does a really good job with that!" she said.

Angie O'Neill, a social worker from Tacoma

Anita Stixrud, a foster parent for 20 years, could not be more enthusiastic about what Angie means to caregivers: "I love her. I can't say enough good things about her. She is by far the best person I've ever worked with

Celeste Diflaviano, a case manager, licenser and activities coordinator for Community Family and Services Foundation in Port Orchard:

Naomi Nichols says Diflaviano helps organize events from Christmas parties to all-staff parties, from appreciation events to support groups, using her immense abilities to get everyone working together. "She is just super, super-efficient and helpful, always thinking of the kids first. She is the best friend to all Kitsap foster kids."

(Note: Celeste read a poem she had written from the point of view of a child in care. See it elsewhere in this issue.)

First Lady Trudi Inslee, Kinship Luminary:

Trudi Inslee, Washington's First Lady, has many demands on her time, but has devoted her time and attention to working on behalf of kinship caregivers in the state. Her involvement represents part of Trudi's long-time commitment to women, children and families.

State Rep. Maureen Walsh of Walla Walla, recipient of the Elected Official Award:

"She is a strong voice in our capitol for those who have no voice – our most vulnerable citizens, and the families that support them," said FPAWS board member Mary Jeanne Smith, one of Rep. Walsh's constituents.

Marci Miess of Lewis County, recipient of the Bob Partlow Award

Said former FPAWS Board member Jamie Beletz, "For nearly 20 years, she has been in the trenches, she has rallied the troops, she has kept hope alive, and she has stood up to the bullies. Loyalty, integrity, courage, sacrifice. These words come to my mind when I hear the name Marci Miess."

Zonta Club of Olympia, recipient of the Edith Owen Wallace Award

For more than 10 years, the organization has "adopted" kinship families in their community.

The group has been sympathetic and supportive, understanding that kinship families face many challenges in their journey to keep their relative children safe and secure. This amazing group of women has set a great example of how fairly small service clubs can have a big positive impact in their community.

Amy Gardner of Longview, recipient of the Steve and Daniele Baxter Award:

A foster mom who cares for drug-affected babies, Amy Gardner nonetheless contributes 20 to 60 hours a week as a volunteer to improve lives of kids and caregivers, says friend and Fostering Together liaison Niki Favela. She was one of the first team members on the consultation team with Children's Administration and continues in that role today.

Niki describes Amy as "one of the most compassionate and dedicated people to foster parents and relative caregivers you would ever find."

Fostering Together, statewide, recipient of the Best Practice Award:

For those engaged in child welfare, it is not about measuring success in the usual terms of money earned or honors received. Success is measured in the caregivers they have supported and the kids who benefit from that support as a result of everyone working together.

It is measured in part by knowing they are living up to the words of former Washington Gov. Mike Lowry: "Take care of the children and they will take care of the future."



VOICES OF CHILDREN



"Grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins and other kin are stepping forward in ever-increasing numbers to assume full-time parental responsibility for children whose parents are unable or unwilling to nurture, protect and appropriately parent their children." – Gov. Jay Inslee, proclaiming May 20 as Kinship Caregiver Day in Washington

Washington's First Lady Trudi Inslee hosted winners of the annual competition, Voices of Children Being Raised by Grandparents or Other Relatives, at the Governor's Mansion May 20.

The statewide contest for children and youth aged 5-18 is sponsored by Family Education and Support Services, based in Olympia. Their original art, poetry and essays reflect how living with a relative in kinship care has made a positive difference in their lives.

Each young person honored received a \$100 gift certificate from Twin Star Credit Union and a free night at Great Wolf Lodge.

Trudi Inslee described this event and others she has hosted for kinship families as "one of the highlights of the year. You are very important and much appreciated."

Bill Moss, assistant secretary for the Aging and Long Term Support Administration of DSHS, said he always knew the work he does for relative caregivers was important, but being a judge of the entries made the work real to him.

"It makes that connection so much stronger," he said

For the next three months, we will run the winning entries from the three age groups, with the words and pictures presented exactly as they were submitted. The winning entries were read by the young people at the ceremony.

"I do not live with Mom or Dad, Dad lives in Florida and Mom is kind of sick. I live with Sara and Ole, they are my Aunt and Uncle. I love living with them because they do fun stuff! They help me how to talk. They take care of me when i am sick. :(I love to go out to dinner with them. They help me with my homework. I go in first grade. The end."

Debra, age 7

"I was 3 years old when my Mom left me in the car alone. I got out and started looking in stores to find her, but she forgot me and left me. A lady bought me some socks and then called the Police. My Mom and brother came to the Police station. Police called my Grandparents to take me and my brother in. They said "of course, come immediately." My Poppy lifted me and held me so tight and i wouldn't let go of his neck. Grandma helped my brother. We fit in one bed and we slept 17 straight hours. After a while my Grandparents became my parents and adopted us. They taught me to act good and treated us fairly and well. Mom taught me to do math, read, and ride a bike. I became an A student and I met great friends. At home I liked to wrestle with my brother. When new movies came out my Poppy would get them and Mommy would make two bags of popcorn. My Pop had a heart attack and stroke Now I help him because he is partly paralyzed. I love my Grandparents because they took me in."

Giorgio, age 11

EDUCATION IS THE GREAT EQUALIZER



Annie Blackledge of Casey Family Programs delivering the keynote address about the importance of educational outcomes for children in care at this year's Pacific Northwest Caregivers Conference

Those words from former Washington Gov. Gary Locke could well be the mission statement for Annie Blackledge, who gave the keynote address at the Caregiver's Conference Night of Shining Stars.

Annie has devoted her 17-year professional career to improving educational outcomes for young people, driven by the certain knowledge that if they succeed in school, they have a much greater chance of succeeding in life.

This month, many young people in care will have defied the odds by walking across a stage to receive a diploma, with which they can walk forward into their future.

Here is some of what Annie told more than 200 people attending the event.

"I have been asked to talk with you today about the important role you play in supporting positive educational outcomes for the children and youth in your care.

Graduation from high school and enrollment and persistence in post-secondary education and training are leading indicators in predicting the success of individuals as adults.

As a result of our nation's recent economic downturn, youth unemployment rates have been the highest in our nation's history. Where once even a high school dropout could count on securing an entry level service-sector job, they now are competing with high school and college graduates and adult professionals for those very same jobs.

For the youth in our nation, education is more important than ever!

This is especially true for children and youth in foster care.

Consider the fact that the typical youth in the general population does not reach the age of self-sufficiency until the age of 26 and receives an average of \$44,500 in parental support after the age of 18.

While we are fortunate in this state to have foster care to the age of 21, foster youth still have to be prepared to support themselves earlier and to a greater degree than their peers.

Unfortunately, our kids in foster care are not faring well as adults." Annie provided figures that show that when young people in foster care become adults, they are far less likely to have health insurance, far more likely to have mental health issues, much more likely to be homeless, and about three times more likely to be living in poverty than their peers in the general population.

She said, "All of these outcomes can be directly tied to education levels and employment.

According to the most recent report from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in Washington State, education outcomes for students in foster care are consistently disheartening.

In 2010, only 47 percent of the students in foster care graduated (from high school), compared to nearly 83 percent of the students not in foster care that year.

In Washington and nationally students in foster care

- Have higher rates of school mobility,
- Are subject to higher rates of disciplinary actions, and
- Are over-represented in educational achievement gaps.

Seventy percent of foster youth express a desire to go to college but yet....

20 percent of youth in foster care attend college, compared to 60 percent in the general population. And nine percent of foster youth graduate from college, compared to 24 percent in the general population.

I'd like to put these abstract facts and numbers into a personal context.

Education has the potential to change lives in a way that few other things we do can.

I know because it changed mine.

At the age of 12, my younger brother and I were placed back into the foster care system in New York state after our adopted father passed away.

Unfortunately, my second experience in foster care was not as good as my first.

I bounced from placement to placement, some in family homes, group homes and homeless shelters.

As a result, I attended many different schools and eventually failed 9th grade.

I was angry. School became one more place to feel stupid, not good enough, hopeless.

Fortunately I had an aunt and uncle who decided I should be placed in Catholic school."

Annie then told the story of Sister Peter, who became her "unofficial mother" and persisted in making sure Annie got the education she needed.

Annie also told the story of Rachel Scott, raised by an aunt and uncle who placed a high priority on education. Rachel is now finishing her freshman year at the University of Washington.

"We got lucky to be part of the 20 percent. As we saw with the statistics, far too many of our foster youth aren't.

I brought us down and now it's time to lift us back up.

The news is not all bad – things are changing in Washington state. According to a recent (state) study, the graduation rate for foster youth is improving slowly.

Washington state, along with a handful of other states, is a leader in the nation addressing the educational needs of students in foster care through:

Legislation for school stability and data and information sharing. Development of education policy, practices, and procedures.

A statewide Education Advocacy program.

Intersystem collaboration between CA and OSPI to create a common vision and shared purpose. College support programs like the one that supports Rachel.

But systems changes alone can only go so far. YOU are the key ingredient to our success."

Annie said the worst place to have a heart attack is in a crowd because everyone thinks somebody else will take action. As with that scenario, one person taking action can make a huge difference in the life of a young person in care, she said.

"When I meet with other alumni who have defied the odds to be successful, we share a story that transcends our differences in gender, age, time and place.

Our stories all begin with one significant adult who stepped out of the crowd.

They:

Made education OUR priority.

Sought to provide us with school stability, and when they couldn't, they made sure we were supported in our transitions.

Helped us build trusting relationships with other adults.

Held higher expectations for us than we held for ourselves.

Advocated for us.

Ensured we had opportunities to prepare for independence.

As foster parents and kinship caregivers, you are the heroes of our stories.

- You are the rare individuals in the crowd who do not hesitate and step forward.
- You never needed a Good Samaritan law – you are the Good Samaritans.
- You are the stars to which we affix our hopes and dreams.
- You are our guides to our true north.
- For this and more, on behalf of all of my fellow alumni, we honor and thank you."



LETTING GO



ADJUSTING TO NEW CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY

Not only do parents make adjustments in their lives when a child in care enters their home, the children in the house are in for changes too . . . big changes! It doesn't matter if they are born or adopted into the family or are currently in foster care. Adjustments come easily for some—they move over at the table, know they will have to share your time and smile—while others are still processing the changes they had to make well into adulthood.

Humor and Insight

One Wisconsin dad, with humor and insight, tells a story about his nine-year-old son. On the evening that he and his wife were going to foster-parenting classes, his son said, "Dad, so you and Mom are going to be gone all night and neglecting me all evening so that you can learn how to care for other kids you're going to bring into our house?"

This wise father knows that his son anticipates making some big changes and is probably fearing it. It's the savvy parent who knows that the whole family will be making changes.

On the other hand, some birth children take fostering and adopting for granted. They are in a position to appreciate what their parents are doing and feel part of it. They learn their new dances in the family circle.

One woman who grew up with biological, adopted and foster siblings says, "I think I lived in my own bubble all my life. The kids who came were almost all younger than me, so I didn't have to compete with them for anything, other than the bathroom. But that was just normal."

She goes on to say, "I was old enough to understand the basics of foster care, so the comings and goings weren't a big deal either. Growing up in a foster home is what it is—it's hard to describe unless you have lived another way to compare it to something."

Both reactions are valid. Be open to any reactions your kids may have and have some tools ready to help the family expand.

To continue reading, click on this link:

<https://strengtheningfamilieschanginglives.wordpress.com/2015/03/24/tip-sheet-tuesday-preparing-the-kids-in-your-home-for-fostering/>

June is National Family Reunification Month.

Letting go of children you have nurtured, loved and supported can be painful. But putting the needs of the child first can ease the pain of separation, as shown in this article by Sherry, who lives in Washington.

"Today, I am feeling all of the feelings. And I know everyone says that ... but it is true for me. After two-and-half years of tears and joy, hard work, love, grace, struggles and huge successes, our boy's parents have finally finished.

Their case is being dismissed this morning. They made it. Just typing that sentence makes me cry – because two-and-half years ago, that was so far from a possibility. For a year of that, I actually prayed against it. And I can tell you the exact turning point in my heart; I've been hashing out the whole story for a good week now. But I'll spare you.

So today, I'm left in awe at all the places where my heart was cracked open and filled, and how He took my anger and hate and selfishness, and opened my eyes to the beauty and miracle of this, and really to show me over and over again, THIS IS NOT ABOUT ME.

Last Christmas, I ordered a print with this verse, 'Look among the nations and wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if I told you' ... Habakkak 1:5. So today, we will celebrate with his family the redemption that wasn't supposed to happen and that Love won...not Sherry."

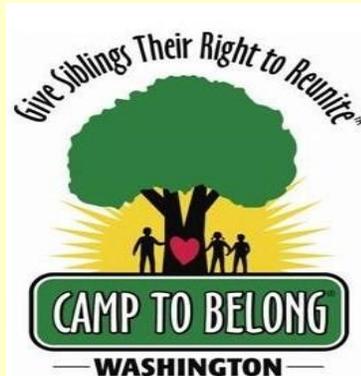
CAMP TO BELONG

Applications are now closed for Camp To Belong Washington for brothers and sisters separated from each other due to foster, relative or adoptive placements.

But counselors are still being sought for the event, which will be Aug. 10-15 in Port Orchard.

This link will send you to a story about the importance of keeping siblings together when they are placed in out-of-home care and of keeping them connected when that does not happen. [http://](http://myemail.constantcontact.com/I-Miss-My-Sibling.html?soid=1102861873675&aid=NxBaIloOLGw)

myemail.constantcontact.com/I-Miss-My-Sibling.html?soid=1102861873675&aid=NxBaIloOLGw



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.

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 is available at the Children's Administration website:

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

or www.fosteringtogether.org.

**CAREGIVERS: CHILD INFORMATION
PLACEMENT REFERRAL FORM**

Are you getting the **Child Information Placement Referral Form** when a child is placed with you? Caregivers should receive this form anytime a child is placed in their home. If you don't receive it, contact the child's worker, or your placement coordinator.

WHAT	WHEN	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE
Child Information / Placement Referral (DSHS Form 15-300)	<p>Prior to or soon after initial placement (within 24-72 hours)</p> <p>When the child changes placement</p> <p>When new information is known about the child's needs</p>	Social Worker, Placement Coordinator



**SOMETHING NEW – FOR
CAREGIVERS . . .**

In response to the CA 2014 Foster Parent Survey, we heard caregivers talk about their many questions on CA policy, practice and how that impacts caring for children placed in your home. In response CA has developed a “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) that will live on our website. Caregivers will soon be able to search by topic for helpful information related to caring for the children placed in your home. Check back each month for new questions.

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

**GETTING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR
SOCIAL WORKER**

Need to contact your social worker? The Children's Administration website has a list of staff members by region.

You can access the list at

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/foster-parenting/childrens-administration-staff-directories>

The lists are updated regularly and also include supervisors for individual social workers.



**USING YOUR STATE
PARK PASS THIS
SUMMER**



Washington State Parks is partnering with Children’s Administration to offer free state park passes to licensed foster parents and relatives caring for a state-dependent child (one who has a Children’s Administration social worker).

A wallet ID card identifying the foster parent or relative caregiver of a dependent child serves as the park pass card. This program is only good at Washington’s state parks. It is not good for use in federal sites or parks in other states. The wallet card is available through Children’s Administration.



- Licensed foster parents receive their wallet card when they become licensed. If you haven’t received one, contact your licensor.
- Relatives caring for a dependent child must request a card through the Children’s Administration Headquarters office.

Contact Michelle Christiansen at:
Chrisma@dshs.wa.gov, \ or 360-902-7989.

The system works like this:

Overnight park visits

If you plan to stay overnight, take your official wallet card identifying yourself as a foster parent or your foster care license to the park to show to park rangers. You will also need to show a drivers’ license or other photo ID. Like everyone else using state park campgrounds, you likely will need reservations for an overnight stay, especially during the summer.

Day park visits

If you are going for a day visit, display your official card on your car’s dashboard so the ranger can see it. If you don’t have a card identifying yourself as a foster parent, call your licensor to request one. If you are a relative caregiver with a dependent child or a foster parent who does not have an identifying card, you are eligible for a free pass to carry with you to the park.

A couple important points:

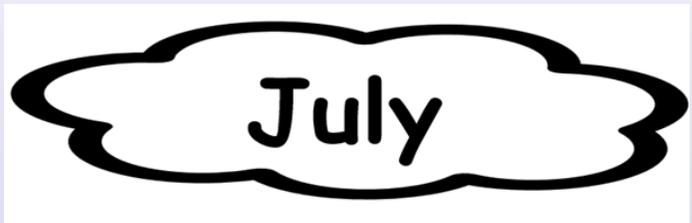
The park pass program is intended children in foster care and their caregivers’ family. Please do not allow others to use your pass. If you must change or cancel your reservations, please notify the park reservation system in advance so others can use your spot.

Adoption Support Payment Process

Dates

Below are the dates your adoption support payments process for the rest of 2015. Paper checks will be mailed on the process date. Direct Deposit payments deposit to your account within 2-4 business days after the process date. ***This only applies to***

Service Month	Process Date
May	April 24
June	May 22
July	July 1
August	July 24
September	August 25
October	September 24
November	October 26
December	November 20
January 2016	December 23



Remember, your July adoption support check always comes late...because the state fiscal year begins on July 1

Washington State government is unable to spend money reserved for the new fiscal year until the fiscal year actually begins. This year July 1st falls on a Wednesday. The check for July will be issued on July 1st.

You should receive your check within a couple of days after that – depending on how far you live from Olympia, WA. Remember on July 4th, post offices and banks are closed and that may affect the date you receive your payment.

Families receiving adoption support are encouraged to consider Direct Deposit for the monthly adoption support payment.

If you have any questions, please call 1-800-562-5682. Press 2 to contact the Adoption Support Program.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.



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 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

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

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.

FOSTER PARENT AND CAREGIVER CRISIS AND SUPPORT LINE:

1-800-301-1868

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

Caregiver Training



The Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence at the University of Washington provides training for caregivers in the support of children in their care. We have made changes to our website.

New Automated Course Schedule and Course Catalog

This can be found at:

allianceforchildwelfare.org

Course **Schedule** provides easy access to scheduled trainings for caregivers.

Course **Catalog** provides a complete list of all trainings not currently scheduled. Tell us if you are interested in a course not yet scheduled.

New automated course schedule requires setting up profile or account with password one time. An individual email address is necessary to create a profile and to register for classes.

Search function includes type of course, topics, locations, training group, even a map to

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
Vacant Reg. 1 North		
Jessica Hanna, Reg. 1 South	Jhanna1124@gmail.com	509-899-3329
Audra Krussel, Reg. 1 South	Audra11@mindspring.com	208-3409956
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
Vacant		
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. 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

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
- ◆ Maia Anderson (South King county)
Maia-anderson@olivecrest.org 425-346-8336
- ◆ JoAnne Moran (King West County, MLK, White Center)
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)
Megan-Harp@olivecrest.org 425-350-3839
- ◆ Stephanie Hanson (Sky Valley)
Stephanie-Hanson@olivecrest.org 360-805-1094
- ◆ Summer Buckles (Everett and Lynwood)
Buckles@olivecrest.org 425-830-9400

REGION 3

Leeann Marshel (Regional Coordinator)

[Leeann Marshel@olivecrest.org](mailto:Leeann_Marshel@olivecrest.org) 360-909-0421

Michelle Fowler (Support Assistant)

Michelle-Fowler@olivecrest.org 360-772-1955

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)
Linda-Cortani@olivecrest.org 360-640-0869
- ◆ 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



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	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 Julie Gelo, Trainer Joan Sager, Trainer	ymarzest@uw.edu jkg@uw.edu sagerj2@uw.edu	206-923-4955 425-339-1811 360-738-2305
R2 Seattle Metro Area	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



ALLIANCE FOR CHILD WELFARE STAFF (continued...)



REGION	NAME	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
R3 Tacoma, Bremerton, Puyallup & surrounding areas.	Arthur Fernandez-Scarberry, Supervisor	sart300@uw.edu	206-276-4549
	Linda Falcocchio, Trainer Luanne Hawley, Registrar	falcol@uw.edu	253-983-6474 253-881-1207
R3 Tumwater, Olympia, Centralia, Long Beach, South Bend, & surrounding areas.	Penny Michel, Trainer	mpen300@uw.edu	360-725-6788
	Linda Bales, Registrar		360-485-8146
R3 Aberdeen, South Bend and Long Beach.	Stephanie Rodriguez, Trainer	steph75@uw.edu	
R3 Vancouver, Camas, Stevenson & Kelso.	Colleen Cornman-Wilcox, Trainer	cm39@uw.edu	360-993-7991
	Kim Glover, Registrar		360-326-3864

