



# RURAL NEVADA CAREGIVER COURIER

May/June 2023

BI- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## MAY IS NATIONAL Foster Care Month



Children's Child Welfare

### What's In This Issue:

- Foster Care Month Links
- Caregiver spotlight
- Training & Resources- QPI CONFERENCE
- Other Announcements

## MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

### *A Word from the Rural NV Foster Care Recruiter*

May is National Foster Care Month, a time to honor and recognize the critical role that you play in the lives of children and families. Your dedication, love, and commitment to caring for children who have experienced trauma and hardship is truly inspiring, and we are grateful for all that you do.

In President Biden's recent proclamation on foster care month, he announced several initiatives his administration is taking to support foster care. Some initiative examples include making the adoption tax credit fully refundable, proposing extending the credit to legal guardians, removing barriers that make it harder for LGBTQI+ families to foster and adopt, expanding the Military Parental Leave Program to new foster placements, and a \$9 billion

budget to provide housing vouchers to all 20,000 youth exiting foster care annually. To thank foster parents from across the state, there are efforts to celebrate foster parents in more areas than ever before; there's Elko's Caregiver Day on 5/20, a planned Carson City caregiver Picnic in August, Bowling for Nye county and other gifts and neat acts of service provided by supporters of your community. Please make sure to reach out to your local licensing worker for any info on appreciation events/ gifts in your area.

[Click to see the full proclamation](#)

# NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH (CONT.)

## NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH 2023 CHILDREN'S BUREAU MESSAGE

This year, the Children's Bureau collaborated with parents, guardians, and young people with lived experience to develop its focus for the month. What we heard was that children and youth in foster care, and their caregivers, need us to focus on their mental well-being as diligently as we focus on their physical health and safety. This month, let us take a holistic and culturally responsive approach to embody this year's theme,

**"Strengthening Minds, Uplifting Families."**

They said the approach should be, trauma informed, individualized, and culturally responsive. An approach that is trauma informed and individualized will consider that each child in a single family may be impacted differently and any plan will be person-centered.

***Culturally responsive could mean treatment plans that include traditional, and non-Westernized traditional practices. Using a lens of compassion and cultural humility to understand the ways that culture can impact how a person approaches mental health is vital to being able to connect children, youth, and families*** to the services they need.

We have a unique opportunity to be the added support when more is needed. I encourage you to explore the resources and stories within, regarding what we can do to further strengthen families, on the National Foster Care Month website.

**TIPS TO**  
**Strengthen  
Minds & Uplift  
Families**

1. Nurture youth's well-being early, often, and continuously. Don't wait for the signs.
2. Talk about mental health as needs and strengths rather than problems or issues.
3. Recognize what culture has to offer. Incorporate traditions, practices, and community.
4. Engage youth. Ask what types of supports they need—including traditional and nontraditional options.
5. Champion the well-being of families and caregivers to support youth's mental health.

Children's Bureau  
Child Welfare Information Gateway

National Foster Care Month  
childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth

## FOSTER CARE MONTH LINKS



**MENTAL HEALTH  
RESOURCES**



**FOSTER CARE STORIES**



**FC MONTH GRAPHICS**



**FAMILY BASED CARE TIPS**



**CULTURAL  
CONSIDERATIONS**



**SUPPORTING KINSHIP**



# CAREGIVER SPOTLIGHTS



The following Caregivers across Nevada have gone above and beyond to support the fostering community. From getting their communities involved to providing needed services for your families, these caregivers deserve a round of applause this Foster care month for the hard work they put out! Thank you.

Please note: This list is not extensive, there are many more homes we had in mind when developing this spotlight.

## ★ ALEX & KELSIE HALL ★ CARSON CITY, NV

Alex & Kelsie Hall have gotten their church involved in several service projects that serve foster care. This includes creating new foster parent welcome baskets, angel tree toy donations, and upgrading the Carson visit room. They are passionate about serving the many needs of foster youth from all ages.

## ★ ELISHIA & JON GIFT ★ ELKO, NV

Elishia Gift is the director of Northern Nevada Moses Project that provides, clothes, support and other resources to families in need including for relative, general and birth homes. It also includes families in need outside of foster care. Elishia is heading a first foster parent appreciation event in Elko this May. Thank you Elishia for all you do!

## ★ JUDY & THOMAS ELLIS ★ FERNLEY, NV

Judy Ellis is voted this year's #1 foster parent recruiter with two homes currently in the licensing process referred by her. Did you know foster parents are the # 1 recruiters for new foster homes nationally? Thank you Judy for sharing your story to many and inspiring them to get involved!

## ★ RICK EWING ★ PAHRUMP, NV

Rick is a caregiver that always steps up and is present for both youth and DCFS. He makes time for QPI meetings & trainings and is a member of BACA. This year, he helped arrange a bowling day for caregivers in Nye County. Thank you Rick for the hard work you do for your community in Nye County & beyond.



# Trainings & Resources

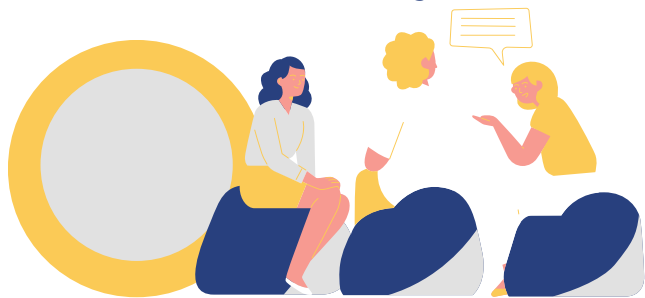
## Online Caregiver Corner

Next Meeting: 6/7/23

8PM

Virtually gather with other rural Nevada foster parents for support, connections & resource sharing.

- Share/get advice
- Share your experiences
- Meet other caregivers
- Build a village



Contact [shelby.riley@dcfs.nv.gov](mailto:shelby.riley@dcfs.nv.gov) for meeting invite

## 2023 FOSTER/ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT CALLS



Hosted by Tracey Somers, LMSW

Last Tuesdays of the Month

A Series of monthly calls to support foster and adoptive parents through common challenges in foster care with a licensed therapist.

Check email for upcoming group call information.

More info email: Tracey Somers  
[tsomers@dcfs.nv.gov](mailto:tsomers@dcfs.nv.gov)

## NEXT RURAL NV QPI MEETING: MAY 24 @ 11 AM

Email [kevin.quint@dcfs.nv.gov](mailto:kevin.quint@dcfs.nv.gov) for meeting link

Do you have any friends or family interested in foster parenting?

## NEXT FOSTER PARENT TRAINING

Live Online Class

Powered By:  Microsoft Teams

## PRE-SERVICE TRAINING FOR FOSTER CARE APPLICANTS\*\*

Tuesdays & Thursdays  
July 11 - August 3rd  
6PM - 9PM

All dates:

7/11/23  
7/13/23  
7/18/23  
7/20/23  
7/25/23  
7/27/23  
8/1/23  
8/3/23



To Register Contact

Kevin Quint:



1-775-684-1973



[kevin.quint@dcfs.nv.gov](mailto:kevin.quint@dcfs.nv.gov)

# Trainings & Resources

**KEEPING CHILDREN CONNECTED TO CULTURE, KIN, AND COMMUNITY:  
MOVING FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION** ♥

**QPI** QUALITY PARENTING INITIATIVE  
10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE



VIRTUAL EVENT  
MAY 16 - 18, 2023  
youth law center

## 10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL QPI CONFERENCE HELD ONLINE

**FREE SPOTS AVAILABLE FOR CAREGIVERS!  
-EMAIL KEVIN.QUINT@DCFS.NV.GOV TO CLAIM-**



NORTHERN NEVADA  
**RAVE**  
FAMILY FOUNDATION  
RENO | SPARKS | ELKO | CARSON CITY

**REPSITE CARE  
RESOURCE FOR  
CARSON CITY & ELKO  
CALL (775)787-3520**

**Now offering respite care in the Carson Valley!** RAVE's mission is to improve the well-being of families by providing respite—a much-needed and well-deserved break—to caregivers of children with special needs. This includes children with developmental disabilities, autism, a special health care need, children with mental and behavioral health concerns, children in foster and adoptive care, and their siblings who reside in the home.

## BE A HERO FUN RUN & FAMILY FAIR! 4/29/23

*DCFS raised nearly \$1000 for CASA of Carson City and provided about 20 resources that help prevent child abuse!*



**MORE JUST IN TIME TRAINING: ([qpinevada.org](http://qpinevada.org))**



# Trainings & Resources

## LGBTQIA+ RESOURCES IN NEVADA

### Northern Nevada Resources

#### Basic Necessities

MJ Miller Law  
(775)393-3260

<https://mjmillerlaw.com>

Support for legal name changes for transgender, nonbinary individuals who need certificate and official documents updated.

Nevada Legal Services  
(775)284-3491

<https://nevadalegalservices.org>

Free legal services for low income Nevadans.

Northern Nevada Hopes  
(775)786-4673

<https://www.nnhopes.org>

Provides inclusive LGBTQ healthcare services, community outreach, and education with many programs. (18+)

Our Center : Northern Nevadas LGBTQIA community center  
(775)624-3720

<https://ourcenterreno.org>

Addresses advocacy, education, and services for the LGBTQ community through multiple programs.

Multicultural Center: Pride Collaborative  
(775)784-6828

<https://www.unr.edu/multicultural-center>

Offers clinical services to LGBTQ adolescents, connected to the UNR psychology services department. Utilizes strength-based approach and focuses on clients resilience.

#### Advocacy and Social

PFLAG Carson City

<https://pflag.org/chapter/carson-city/>

An organization that supports, educates, and advocates for LGBTQ individuals and their families.

Spectrum Northern Nevada

<http://www.spectrumnv.org>

Creates social networks and events for the mental wellbeing of the LGBTQ community.



### Southern Nevada Resources

#### Basic Necessities

Bright Star Foundation

<https://www.brightstargives.org>

Provide stable and inclusive housing to vulnerable populations including LGBTQ individuals.

Henderson Equality Center

<https://www.equalitynv.org>

LGBTQ youth and adults focus on education, social support, skill building, and job assistance.

Richer Life Counseling

<https://richerlifecounseling.com>

LGBTQ therapy via couples counseling, individual therapy, and a blog that discuss issues.

The Center: Serving the LGBTQ Community of Nevada

<https://thecenterlv.org>

Provides testing, resources and information including youth programs held for the LGBTQ community.

#### Advocacy and Social

Gender Justice Nevada

<https://genderjusticenv.org>

Changes law, policy, attitudes of violence, and mistreatment of the queer population.

Human Rights Campaign: Steering Las Vegas

[https://lasvegas\\_hrc.org](https://lasvegas_hrc.org)

Volunteers develop an inclusive community for LGBTQ community through events.

Las Vegas Trans Pride

(702)906-4608

<http://lasvegastranspride.org>

Brings pride, awareness, empowerment and support to the trans expansive community with little or no charge to community members. Primarily is sustained through donations from the community.

PFLAG: Las Vegas Chapter

<https://pflag.org/chapter/las-vegas/>

An organization that supports, educates, and advocates for LGBTQ individuals and their families.



For additional resources scan the QR code!

**MORE JUST IN TIME TRAINING: ([qpinevada.org](http://qpinevada.org))**





# Trainings & Resources

SUMMER CAMP FOR YOUTH WHO  
HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL TRAUMA  
SUMMER OF HEALING CAMP  
LAKE TAHOE

Now accepting applications for  
Campers  
&  
Volunteers!

Summer of Healing Camp from July 9th–July 15th is offered free of charge to children who have been impacted by sexual and/or family violence .

Accepting children in the age range of:

- ♦ 8–16 years old; Ages 17+ can apply for junior counselor positions
- ♦ Children and volunteers have the opportunity to have fun by swimming in the lake, playing lawn games, learning archery, riding bike, and creating art together.
- ♦ Children are given the chance to have role models and build positive experiences with healthy adults.
- ♦ The volunteers and therapists help the child heal from trauma in a nonjudgmental and safe space by spending the week alongside the children.

Applications and further information available on our website at: [www.fcsnv.org](http://www.fcsnv.org) under youth treatment camps at the bottom of the page or contact us at 775.329.0623 for more information

Email: [kate@familycounselingservice.org](mailto:kate@familycounselingservice.org) or

[tiffany@familycounselingservice.org](mailto:tiffany@familycounselingservice.org)



**RAISE** *the*  
**FUTURE**

Connect Youth. Support Families. Create Hope.

## Thank you, Common Ground Church!

On May 7th for the church's serve day, members of Common Ground Church (headed by Alex & Kelsie Hall) came and upgraded our visit rooms in the Carson District office. They provided new furniture, toys, decorations and gave a whole new life to our visit rooms. Thanks CG! You are awesome!



**Before**



**After**

**NEW TRAININGS OFFERED BY RTF  
(CLICK LOGO TO VIEW)**

# Announcements & Other News

**JUNE 17TH, 2023**



**The Reno Rodeo Foundation has generously donated rodeo tickets to rural NV foster families!**

**These tickets are available to any member living inside your foster home! (please, no relatives that live outside the home, neighbors, or friends ~ we want there to be enough for all of our families)!**

**To request your tickets, provide the following to your licensing worker:**

- 1. Foster parent's name**
- 2. Number of people in the home needing a ticket**
- 3. Phone number**
- 4. Email address**



**RESERVE TICKETS BY JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> 2023**

**ONCE RESERVED, TICKETS WILL BE MAILED**

IN HONOR OF YOU!

Foster Family  
Appreciation  
Day

SATURDAY

May | 20 | 2023

4PM-8PM

BASQUE CLUB HOUSE

1601 FLAGVIEW DR ELKO, NV 89801

Dinner at 5PM.  
Bingo 6PM - 8PM  
Gifts for all. Bounce House. Games. Fun

**FREE  
RENO  
RODEO  
TICKETS  
FOR  
FOSTER  
HOMES**

**FOSTER PARENT  
APPRECIATION  
EVENT IN ELKO**

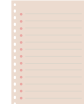
**PROVIDED BY  
NORTHERN  
NEVADA MOSES  
PROJECT**

**RSVP AT:  
RBURT@DCFS.NV.GOV**



# Announcements & Other News

## HELPFUL LINKS:

 [Agency Forms and Documents for Foster Parents](#)

## NEW FACEBOOK GROUP NOW OPEN



**CLICK TO JOIN**



### Rural Nevada Foster Parents & Partners of QPI

- GET UPDATES & NEWS
- QPI FACTS AND DISCUSSIONS
- FIND A VIRTUAL COMMUNITY
- OPEN TO CAREGIVERS AND OTHER QPI PARTNERS

# Welcome

## NEW FOSTER HOMES

KEVIN & PHYLLYS DOWD  
FALLON, NV

KENNETH & KATE  
KIDWELL  
WINNEMUCCA, NV

SAM & JOE SETTLES  
ELY, NV

### Struggling with the child welfare system?

*this is a common issue with new and seasoned foster homes. There are those you can reach out to for assistance:*

**Kelly McKiddie - Mental Health Counselor 2**  
kmckiddie@dcfs.nv.gov

**Kevin Quint - Manager, Advanced Foster Care and Licensing**

kevin.quint@dcfs.nv.gov

**Laurie Jackson - Rural Child Welfare Manager**  
ljackson@dcfs.nv.gov

Please reach out to us and we are happy to assist you!



JOIN OUR MONTHLY QPI MEETINGS VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS  
EMAIL THE QPI COORDINATOR,  
KEVIN QUINT, KEVIN.QUINT@DCFS.NV.GOV  
FOR THE MEETING INVITE.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE REMOVED FROM THIS MAILING LIST, PLEASE EMAIL  
Shelby.riley@dcfs.nv.gov