

## The Holidays in Foster Care: Why Things Might Get Rough

During the holidays, we are inundated with messages from a number of sources (movies, music, TV, social media, commercials) about how we should be feeling joyful, happy, and thankful. Surrounded by loving (and attractive) family, laughter, fancy food served at perfectly set tables and loads of expensive gifts, these images rarely reflect the truth for the majority of people. For children in foster care, conflicting loyalties and lost dreams can make the holidays an even more especially difficult time. They often report feeling especially vulnerable, lonely and sad, at a time when they are expected to feel exactly the opposite.

[Foster Parent Holiday Tips](#)

## November is Children's Grief Awareness Month

Many adults believe that infants and toddlers are too young to grieve.

**The truth is any child old enough to love is old enough to feel the impacts of a loss.**

Yes, even babies can notice and react to the loss of a loved one.

Infants, toddlers, and young children often show their grief, stress, or loss through behavior. You may notice infants have increased crying, sadness, fussiness, or changes to eating or sleeping habits. Click below for more tips on supporting grief in youth by the National Alliance of Children's Grief.

[Youth Grief Resources](#)



## Happy Holidays from DCFS

As the holiday season approaches, it's important to recognize the diverse experiences foster children may have during this time.

Creating a sense of belonging and understanding, managing expectations with empathy, and fostering gratitude are key during this period.

Celebrating diverse traditions and backgrounds, establishing strong support systems, and emphasizing the value of giving back can make a significant difference on how a child will look back on this Christmas in foster care.

There's a lot buzzing around DCFS too, Angel Tree, Sweets with Santa and some other fun Holiday surprises are right around the corner! Read up in this newsletter to stay up to date and thank you for another year of fostering.

[Short Video on Foster Parenting During Xmas](#)

## Next Rural QPI Committee Meeting



Wednesday, December 20, 2023 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Get involved with ensuring that foster care in rural Nevada is evidence based, child led, and family focused.

Microsoft Teams meeting  
Meeting ID: 225 703 733 440

Passcode: gP6Uyn

**Or call in (audio only)**

**+1 775-321-6111**

United States, Reno

Phone Conference ID: 611 151 924#

**Or Email Kevin Quint for Meeting Link**

kevin.quint@dcfs.nv.gov

[Request Meeting Link](#)

## Caregiver Corner Virtual Meeting



**Next meeting: 1/3/24 @ 8 PM**

We will be taking a break from meeting in December and enjoy the holiday festivities.

Please join us for another opportunity to connect among your Rural NV Fostering Community on January 3rd 2024.

Microsoft Teams Meeting Link:

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

Meeting ID: 217 959 700 112

Passcode: egRbJu

**Or call in (audio only)**

**+1 775-321-6111**

United States, Reno

Phone Conference ID: 794 519 779#

## Next DCFS In House Training

**DCFS Presents: *Interrupting the Conflict Cycle***

**December 11 @ 8:30PM**

**OR**

**December 14 @ 9:30 AM**

An online live interactive webinar mini-training

**DCFS Presents: Interrupting the Conflict Cycle**



An online live interactive webinar mini-training with 2.25 CEU's for social workers and 2.25 training hours for foster parents

**Learn:**

- \* Prevention tools- Communication & Boundary setting
- \* Interruption Tools \* Love as a tool
- \*Understanding trauma & conflict
- \* Responding versus Reacting

**Training dates:**

December 11<sup>th</sup> 6 – 8:30 p.m. Monday

OR (sign up for one only)

December 14<sup>th</sup> 9:30-12:00 p.m. Thursday

**To Sign Up:**

Email [KMckiddie@DCFS.Nv.Gov](mailto:KMckiddie@DCFS.Nv.Gov) or [Sunshine.Perry@DCFS.Nv.Gov](mailto:Sunshine.Perry@DCFS.Nv.Gov) noting which date you are registering for and then MARK the date in your calendar. A link and printable handouts will be sent out 3-5 days prior to event. **\*\*Please NOTE this will be recorded for future use.**

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**\*\*Please NOTE this will be recorded for future use.**

**Download  
Flyer**

# New Respite Co-op List



DCFS **NEW** Respite Co-Op to be launched soon.

DCFS is piloting an additional way of supporting respite care. The respite Co-op is a voluntary list of licensed foster parents in DCFS that are willing to share their name and contact info with other licensed foster homes to reach for respite purposes. Respite opportunities can be large & small. Utilize it for things like:

- Out of State Trips
- Parent's Night Out
- Arrange School Carpool
- Rest & Destress
- In between daycare/school spots
- Etc.

If you are interested in joining the Respite Co-Op, please fill out our form below to receive more details. Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much more.

**Sign Up for Respite Co-Op**

# Champion Nominations 2024



Nominate the Excellent parenting you see in the foster community.

DCFS wants your help recognizing our community members doing the work for youth in foster care. Click Below to nominate a Champion in Rural NV Foster Care. Results will be announced in our January newsletter. All nominations will also be submitted to the national QPI Champion Nominations that will be announced on December 14 2023.

**Categories:**

- Champion Foster Parent
- Champion Case Worker
- Champion Community Partner
- Champion with Lived Experience

**Submit Nominations by  
12/9/23**

# Next Training for new applicants & Foster Parent Recruitment Challenge

Powered By: Microsoft Teams

**Live Online Classes**

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

Provided by Nevada Division of Child & Family Services  
Saturdays  
January 20 - February 10  
9AM -3PM

All dates:  
January 20  
January 27  
February 3  
February 10

*After attending and completing all four sessions, participants will move on to the next steps in foster care licensure.*

To Register For training Create an account at [www.ruralnvfostercare.com](http://www.ruralnvfostercare.com)

Questions?  
888-423-2659  
[shelby.riley@dcfs.nv.gov](mailto:shelby.riley@dcfs.nv.gov)

**Topics Covered:**

- The "Life of a Foster Care Case".
- Foster parent roles & keys to successful fostering.
- Helping children with special needs.
- Helping children who have experienced trauma.
- Working with the birth family.
- The foster care licensing process.
- You will also hear from judges, social workers, birth parents, current foster parents, former foster children, and more.

**2nd Recruitment Challenge is now open**  
Our next foster parent training is starting on January 20th 2023 Via Microsoft Teams.

This training season were challenging **YOU** to recruit foster homes and a chance to win a \$10 Starbucks gift card. Here are the rules:

**1. Print our Training Flyer below.**

**2. Post it at your work, gym, church, kid's school, FB Page or wherever you congregate with your community.**

**3. Take a picture and email it to [shelby.riley@dcfs.nv.gov](mailto:shelby.riley@dcfs.nv.gov) with the location you posted in.**

**\*Alternatively, you can send the flyer in an eblast and CC Shelby on the blast\***

A lucky winner will be drawn on January 19th 2024!

**Help us gain more amazing foster homes in Rural Nevada!**

Contact:  
[shelby.riley@dcfs.nv.gov](mailto:shelby.riley@dcfs.nv.gov); 775-684-1850  
Start Application: [ruralnvfostercare.com](http://ruralnvfostercare.com)

**Download  
Flyer**

## Next QPI Webinars



[Click to Register](#)

Next QPI National webinar:  
Exploring Grief and Loss in Our QPI Work.

**Thursday November 16 @ 11AM**

Grief is a universal human experience, and it can manifest in various forms when we encounter loss. In the context of the child welfare system, the experience of grief and loss is both profound and complex. Join us for an insightful webinar that explores the intricacies of grief and loss within our QPI work.



[Click to Register](#)

Elevate and Celebrate - Quality Parenting Initiative

**Thursday December 14 @ 11AM**

This will be the nationally held webinar to celebrate QPI champions across the county. Submit your nomination today to highlight someone that has been doing amazing QPI work this year!

## Events & Programming



Give a THANKS to the Reno Rodeo Foundation

The Reno Rodeo Foundation has spent \$13,051.15 to clothe 90 DCFS kids this year. In order to expand this program the RRF is asking for anecdotes of the impact this program is making with our children to share with the Board. Click the link below to show thanks if you received any donations from Reno Rodeo this year.



Click to send a Thank  
you

**First Placement Support Program**

**WHAT IS THE FIRST PLACEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM**

- It is a program that was developed to support first time foster parents, adoptive parents, relatives, and/or fictive kin parents with the first foster child placed in their home.
- The program is designed to help coach caregivers in navigating DCFS along with helping them understand the challenges and needs of foster children.
- The program was created when DCFS recognized a need to support homes with their first placement due to the complexity of the children who come into their homes and the unique needs of each new caregiver.
- The program is also meant to provide additional training on Children from Hard Places.

**WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE PROGRAM**

- An Advanced Foster Care (AFC) program coach will reach out to you to make introductions and find a convenient time to meet with you.
- The AFC coaches will arrange to meet with you in one of the following ways i.e., in person, by phone, and/or via a video platform.
- The AFC Coach will meet with you for four to six weeks to complete the first placement support curriculum. Each visit will last approximately 60-90 minutes.
- The curriculum includes five topics: Introduction, Self-Care, Kids from Hard Places, The Parenting Paradigm, and a Topic of Your Choice.
- The AFC Coach is available to extend the 4-6 week sessions if the foster home has a scheduling conflict, wants to space out the meetings, and/or needs additional support after the curriculum topics are completed.
- The AFC coach is also available for extra support through phone calls, questions, writing sessions, and/or encouragement in addition to the curriculum visits.

*Every child deserves a family*

One of the four AFC Coaches listed below will reach out to you when you become licensed to start the first placement support program.

- Malanika Jones-Bluford (Carson DO)
  - (775) 431-4313
- Kelly McMiddle (Pahump DO)
  - (775) 431-3592
- Sunshine Ferry (Pahump DO)
  - (775) 431-3569
- Cynthia Shaghaman (Elko DO)
  - (775) 546-5803

If you have any additional question, you can contact the Advanced Foster Care Program, Clinical Program Manager, Kevin Quint at (775) 684-1973 or kevin.quint@dctr.nv.gov

## First Placement Support Program

The DCFS Advanced Foster Care team has launched a new program to support placement stability of our youth in care.

- The program is designed to help coach new caregivers in navigating DCFS along with helping them understand the challenges and needs of foster children. Read below about this program.

Download  
Flyer

DCFS INVITES YOU TO

Sweets  
WITH  
**SANTA**

12.10.2023  
12-4 PM  
Governor's Mansion  
606 Mountain St.  
Carson City, NV 89703

FEATURING:  
PICTURES WITH SANTA  
COOKIE DECORATING  
CRAFTS  
LETTERS TO SANTA  
THERAPY DOGS  
CHRISTMAS CAROL KAREOKE  
PIZZA LUNCH  
HOT COCOA

RSVP by 12/5/23

## Sweets With Santa Carson City

Join DCFS and Santa Clause for our Annual Christmas Party & lunch! All household members are welcomed.

**Sunday 12/10/23 12-4 PM**

Governor's Mansion  
**606 Mountain St.**

**Carson City, NV 89703**

Please RSVP by 12/5/23 by clicking below.

RSVP  
HERE

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**FREE \* BY RESERVATION ONLY**

E-mail: cpsuzyp@aol.com (775) 882-3751  
When responding: include each Child's  
NAME, GENDER, SIZE & AGE

**FUN FOR FOSTER FAMILIES**  
**AGES 0-18 \* SAT DEC 9 \***  
**11:30 am — 2:00 PM**  
**PLEASE ARRIVE PROMPTLY**  
**11:15--11:30 AM**

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:  
LUNCH - FUN CRAFTS -  
A VISIT WITH SANTA

MENU FOR LUNCH  
Chicken Noodle Soup,  
Biscuits, Fruit,  
Cookies, & Juice

PLEASE NOTIFY CAROL PARK OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES OR  
SENSITIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL CHILDREN THAT COME  
INTO YOUR CARE OR CHANGES TO YOUR ORIGINAL  
RESERVATION.

SPONSORED BY CARSON CITY ELKS LODGE #2177  
& CARSON CITY EMBLEM CLUB #507  
TO BE HELD AT 515 N Nevada ST,  
CARSON CITY, NV 89703

## Elk's Lodge Christmas Party for Foster Families

This is a space limited Christmas party for foster families on 12/9/23 11:30 AM to 2 PM.  
Spots are first come, first served.

RSVP with Carol Park

E-mail: cpsuzyp@aol.com

Phone: (775) 882-3751

DOWNLOAD  
FLYER





## Other News & Resources



### Foster Change Offers Membership to Rural NV Foster Parents

Receive the following:

- Free access to the Foster Change Lending Library
- Access to Information and Referral Hotline
- Access to specific DFS events for all children in the home, not just those with open cases – (this access will include the handouts of basic need supplies, such as shoes, backpacks, gifts.)
- Invitation to attend regularly scheduled Foster Change One Voice Town Hall meetings, giving you a chance to have your voice heard and elevated in real time, on matters that are important and are affecting you and your fellow peers, with the expectation of responses on behalf of the department, presented at the beginning of each next One Voice Town Hall.

Please email

[jessica@fosterchangecc.org](mailto:jessica@fosterchangecc.org) to sign up for a free membership.



### Just in Time training QPI Nevada

Keep up with your licensing hours by accessing an array of trainings online. Access up to date foster licensing regulations and find other neat handouts and resources.

[QPI Nevada](#)



Call or text (702) 970-4546 or email [jessica@fosterchangecc.org](mailto:jessica@fosterchangecc.org) if you have any questions about becoming a member.

\*You will be contacted upon completion of processing with your membership number and other pressing information.

**Free Foster Change  
Membership**



[Click The Logo Above to Join Our Facebook Page](#)



### Welcome New Foster Home!

Framel Thompson Pahrump, NV  
Leshal & Talicia Beck Lockwood, NV  
Jeff & Heather Paul Carson City, NV  
Lisa Davis Carson City, NV  
Jeff & Christa Lambin Carson City, NV  
Garrett & Desiree Plumb Fernley, NV  
Hallie Bauer & Louie Rodriguez Fernley, NV

NV Division of Child & Family Services | 2533 N Carson St, 100, Carson City, NV 89706

[Unsubscribe shelby.riley@dcfs.nv.gov](mailto:shelby.riley@dcfs.nv.gov)

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