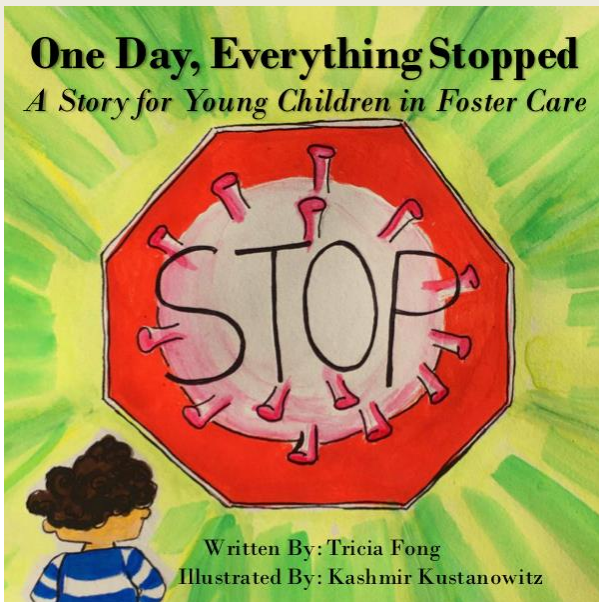


# NEWSLETTER

## RESOURCE/ RELATIVE/ FICTIVE KIN/ ADOPTIVE PARENTS



A great book to read with your kids!

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EpGZy4htBr\\_Tf\\_jLDUDFRoLx3Z2KOYf/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EpGZy4htBr_Tf_jLDUDFRoLx3Z2KOYf/view)

## Quality Parenting Washoe

### QPI STEERING COMMITTEE

The QPI Steering Committee is a monthly meeting where WCHSA staff, resource parents, and birth parents meet and work collaboratively to improve Quality Parenting within Washoe County. The QPI Steering Committee is **the third Thursday of every month at 9:30am on Zoom!** We would love for you to attend. Please reach out to Kylee Spring, QPI Liaison for the Zoom link. [kspring@washoecounty.us](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.us)



### WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER

Quality Parenting Washoe and Washoe County Human Services Agency want to help ensure everyone is working together as a team. Resource Parents are a huge piece in every team and your voice should always be heard. Therefore if you are finding yourself frustrated or not heard please reach out to your supports. WCHSA staff is here to help support you. As a team everyone should feel safe to express any and all feelings in a nonjudgmental way where everyone is transparent and truly listens to one another. The above picture is a visual to help identify supports within the agency. We are all in the roundabout working together to support one another. When you have any questions or concerns first contact your **caseworker**. If needed you can always contact their **supervisor** as well.



## Who Is Your Support

The **FEC Engager** is there as an additional support and not just for visitation. Even though you may only see your **licensing worker** once a year that doesn't matter - reach out to them! They are there to support you with any licensing questions or if you need help getting a hold of someone. **Heather Wenker**, the placement specialist, is also there as a support to you for any questions or concerns. Lastly, **Kylee Spring**, the Quality Parenting Washoe Liaison, is your biggest support! She can help with ensuring you are in contact with the correct person, answer questions, brainstorm solutions, or be a listening ear to any concerns. Kylee is a great advocate for all team members and will ensure that everyone's voice is heard and supported in a non judgmental way. [kspring@washoecounty.us](mailto:kspring@washoecounty.us) We do not want any team member feeling alone we are here not only to support the children and families we work with but each other as well.

BRIDGES  
out of  
POVERTY



### Dates of training:

- **Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>** 10:00 am-12
- **Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup>** 5:30pm-7:30pm
- **Thursday July 30<sup>th</sup>** 5:30pm-7:30pm

This is a **mandatory** training requirement for your license renewal.

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register. [MPolley@washoecounty.us](mailto:MPolley@washoecounty.us)



**RESOURCE PARENT, RELATIVE, FICTIVE KIN & ADOPTIVE**

*Support Groups*

**WE ARE LOOKING TO ENHANCE OUR SUPPORT GROUPS**

Please email Kylee Spring if you have a support group currently going. We are working on getting an updated list and would love to get the word out to others. Also, we are working on setting a recurring monthly support group ran by Kylee Spring. If you have ideas or topics that you would like to have discussed please email Kylee: [kspring@washocounty.us](mailto:kspring@washocounty.us).



**COVID UPDATES:**

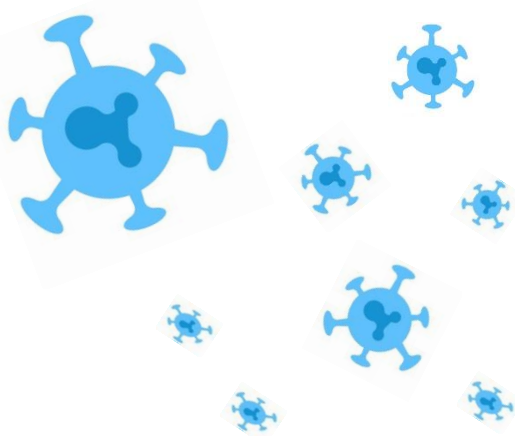
First and foremost, WCHSA wants to thank each and every one of you for being understanding and following the COVID requirements. This has undoubtedly been a stressful experience for everyone, and your support for our children and families is greatly valued.

Just a reminder that all in-person visitation between children and their families must be approved by WCHSA. Please contact your caseworker for more information. Video and phone visitation are still encouraged and expected to maintain important connections.

Resource parents must notify caseworkers of any request for licensed childcare or activities outside of the home. Using unlicensed daycare or respite care are not permitted unless there is a critical need and it is approved by WCHSA.

WCHSA is actively working on plans to support you all with the School District's back to school plans. We ask that you are diligent in your communication with the caseworkers and supports as the need arises.

Please reach out for any questions.



**CORONAVIRUS PREVENTION**



**Washoe Quality Parenting  
Spotlight Award!**

We want to celebrate all team members that touch the lives of children and family in our community and need your help to do so! As you have seen there has been videos going out to resource families and WCHSA staff shining a spotlight on people who are nominated. These nominations can be resource parents, WCHSA staff or any community member we want to hear and shine the spotlight on everyone!

Our mission is to give recognition to every person who is helping children and families. All that has to be done to nominate is to fill out the Quality Parenting Washoe Spotlight Nomination form that can be found on the QPI website (<http://www.qpinevada.org/>). After you fill it out send it to Kylee Spring, QPI Liaison ([kspring@washocounty.us](mailto:kspring@washocounty.us)) and she will do the rest of the work. Remember you can nominate resource parents, caregivers, birth parents, WCHSA staff, or community providers.

Let's celebrate together and showcase our amazing community and all the people involved!

***New Training updates:***

**QPI WEBSITE:**  
[HTTP://WWW.QPINEVADA.ORG/](http://www.qpinevada.org/)

Below are amazing new trainings that are on the QPI website that you can get renewal training hours!

**Alleviating Stress for Foster Youth During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Barbara Lankamp-Kochis, MA LMFT - Marriage and Family Therapist*

**Safe and Sound: Pediatric Tips for Keeping Kids and Families Healthy During COVID-19 and Beyond**

*Heather C. Forkey, MD, Director of Foster Children Evaluation Service (FaCES), University of Massachusetts*

**From Resistance to Resilience**

*Barbara Lankamp-Kochis, MA LMFT - Marriage and Family Therapist*

**Heart to Heart: Caregiver and Child Connections in Times of Challenge**

*Barbara Stroud PhD, Licensed Psychologist*

**Keeping Youth TECHnically Connected**

*Janay Eustace, MSW - Quality Parenting Initiative Consultant, Youth Engagement Specialist, Youth Law Center | Jennifer Rodriguez - Executive Director of the Youth Law Center*

**Supporting Meaningful Connections: Family Time Visits During a Pandemic**

*Kate Rosenblum, PhD ABPP IMH-E - Professor of Psychiatry, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Michigan Medicine, Co-director, Zero to Thrive*

**The Power of Connection: How Resource Families Can Support Adolescents Through COVID-19 Crisis**

*Kenneth Ginsburg - MD MEd | Jennifer Rodriguez, Executive Director of the Youth Law Center*

**Using Media Effectively with Young Children and Virtual Visitation/ Part One: Virtual Communication with Young Children**

*Rachel Barr Phd - Director, Georgetown Early Learning Project*

**Using Media Effectively with Young Children and Virtual Visitation/ Part Two: Using Media Play with Young Children**

*Rachel Barr Phd - Director, Georgetown Early Learning Project*

**KEYWORD**

**COMFORT CALLS**

Comfort Calls should be completed when a child(ren) are removed from their parents and placed with a resource parent. Comfort Calls start building trust and the co-parenting relationship between the parents and resource parents. If a parent is unable to participate in the Comfort Call try to reach out to a relative that is able to participate with the Comfort Call.

Comfort Calls can also be completed during any transition. Even if it's from one resource home to another resource home.

Here is a great video and example of a comfort call

<https://vimeo.com/367776508>



## Interested in Adoption?

### Alex

November 12, 2014

#### LOOKING FOR ADOPTIVE HOME

Alex is a self-proclaimed “clean freak”. He would also fall under the artsy category if you asked him. He loves to sing and write poetry and is currently teaching himself to play guitar. Alex finds joy in swimming and building things such as bicycles. He is taking a cooking class in school right now and is starting to show a real knack for it. His love for food varies between uber healthy to fried chicken. One thing is for sure, you will not likely find him cutting into a juicy steak or chomping down on a messy burger. Alex likes dogs and enjoys all genres of positive, “motivational” music. He is an excellent advocate for himself. So much so that he recently asked for a tutor or some other kind of positive support to help ensure his academic success.

Alex is looking for a flexible foster family with a mom and a dad who won't be afraid to hold him accountable. He would love to be an only child but is open to becoming a big brother.

Check out his Have a Heart video from KOLO 8 News Now by clicking on the link below:  
<https://www.kolotv.com/video/2020/07/03/have-heart-meet-alexander/>

If you're interested in learning more about this fun, quirky kiddo contact Tawnya Robertson at (775) 785-8659 or [troberson@washoecounty.us](mailto:troberson@washoecounty.us)



### Maycee

February 27, 2010

#### LOOKING FOR ADOPTIVE HOME

Maycee has a boisterous personality. She enjoys interacting with other children and adults alike. Maycee is working towards strengthening her friendship skills and will benefit from a family who is patient and consistent. Maycee takes pride in completing chores which involve cleaning and organization. Maycee is kind, thoughtful and funny. She is energetic and would do well in an extracurricular activity like gymnastics. Maycee loves horses and swimming. Maycee has two older sisters with whom she wishes to maintain a connection.

If you interested in learning more about Maycee contact Mitch Matthews, LSW at 775-785-8693 [mmatthews@washoecounty.us](mailto:mmatthews@washoecounty.us)

### Ethan

April 24, 2007

#### 100% FREE FOR ADOPTION

Ethan is a bright, confident and handsome young man. To describe Ethan as outgoing would be an understatement. Ethan is very friendly and interacts easily with others. Ethan has a great sense of humor and appreciates this quality in others. Ethan enjoys sports and exhibits natural athletic ability. Presently in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Ethan will benefit from a family who is able to provide consistent structure and follow thru related to academics. Ethan has developed strong attachments to his current foster parents. The ideal family will provide an unconditionally loving environment wherein Ethan may build relationships at his own pace. Ethan does well with younger children and animals. Ethan is open to families with one parent or two.

If you interested in learning more about Ethan contact Mitch Matthews, LSW 775-785-8693 [mmatthews@washoecounty.us](mailto:mmatthews@washoecounty.us)





## Washoe County School District Update:

*“The questions that have been approved are posted (in English and Spanish)  
<https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/15052>*

**Details not included on the FAQ or needing emphasis:**

Foster and CIT (Children in Transition/aka “homeless” by Federal definition) are considered “vulnerable populations” and will be allowed to return to school full-time, 5 days per week with appropriate social distancing protocols in place.

- Transportation for next year is still a work in progress.
  - As you may already know, transportation requests always go through your worker. Every summer they need to be renewed so if your student will need a bus – or if you had received reimbursement for transport – a new request must be submitted by your worker.
  - If you are able to drive your student to school, reimbursement is available to you and the school will do all of the tracking for you – in order to qualify for reimbursement, a transportation request form must be submitted (by your worker) and officially denied through the school district.

- **Distance Learning:** Stay tuned for further info. on staffing/approval for this option, so we can provide ample support to ensure educational stability for youth in our custody.
  - WCSD will publish official plans within 20 days of school start, (which has moved to August 17<sup>th</sup>) so within the next 2 weeks we will know more.
  - You may be contacted by “both” your worker and WCSD regarding your preferences for the next school year.
  - As a gentle reminder, all school changes outside of their existing (or natural matriculation) must be approved through our agency as long as the case remains open. :]
- **Tutoring:** Tutors are eager to help our kids now (virtually)! Tutoring is provided at no cost at this point, please contact your case worker for more information.
  - Stay tuned for additional virtual supports/interventions for kids needing a boost.

Please utilize the [WCS D website](#) as there are many layers that will continue to unfold.

## The deadline is approaching quickly!

The **deadline** is approaching quickly to get your requests to us for the specialty grant (\$200 per child for clothing and \$50 for supplies). Please complete the entire form and send it to [RWalker@washoecounty.us](mailto:RWalker@washoecounty.us) as soon as possible. Rhonda will then send you a response on next steps. Please check your email for the fillable form.

*Remember this is for resource homes, fictive kin, relative, group homes, and adoptive homes that has placement of a child in foster care! I repeat **ALL** children in WCHSA custody are eligible and should be provided this opportunity.*



Greetings WCHSA Families,

Washoe County HSA has been given a large donation, aimed to directly benefit children in foster care. Every child, regardless of placement type (foster, treatment, relatives, kinship, residential, etc.) will be receiving approximately \$200 for new clothing, and \$50 towards supplies in July/August 2020. The generous donation will also allow each child approximately \$200 towards Christmas. We will be reaching out later in the year regarding that.

With approximately 800 children to buy for, this is a lot to manage but we figure, who best to decide what a child wants/needs, than him/herself and their family. With that, we have some requirements so that we can be as efficient as possible. Please complete this form for **EACH** child placed in your home and send directly to [RWalker@washoecounty.us](mailto:RWalker@washoecounty.us) no later than July 15, 2020. You will receive a response on how to proceed for each section below.

Child’s full name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Caseworker: \_\_\_\_\_

Care provider name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Clothing (care provider picks one):**

I wish to purchase the child’s clothing and be reimbursed by Washoe County (up to \$200 per child). I understand that I will be required to submit a receipt in order to be reimbursed.

I wish to create a ‘wish list’ on a website (such as Amazon, Target, Kohls) for the above-named child, and send it to the Specialty Grant committee for purchase.

**Supplies (care provider picks one):**

I wish to pick up my child’s school supplies at the FEC in August 2020

I wish to utilize the \$50 allotment on extracurricular/school activity fees for my child.

My child is not of school age and I would like to utilize this allotment on other supplies for my child.



### Do you have friends and family ask you about foster care or adoption?

Our Recruitment and Team is a wealth of knowledge and would come to your village (virtually) to help spread the word about foster and adoption. Even in times of COVID our Recruitment and Training are meeting and training resource parents through Zoom. They are able to answer any questions your friends and family may have. Lets work together so every child has a home.

To Schedule or learn more about this call the Recruitment and Training team at 337-4470!

## Another Change with Staff

**MIKIE FRANKLIN** has moved to Adult Services!

**LAURA CAPRIOLI** has transferred to supervisor over Recruitment and Training & **MELISSA COATES** is the supervisor over Foster Care Licensing!

Melissa Coates recently accepted the position of Supervisor for the Foster Care Licensing Unit. Melissa has been with the Agency for the past 12 years. She has been an assessment worker, permanency worker as well as a trainer with Human Services Agency. Prior to this position Melissa was a Supervisor with Adult Services at Cross Roads. From her experiences Melissa has a wealth of knowledge regarding multiple aspects of our agency and community providers.

Melissa prides herself on honesty, respect and transparency. Since this transition occurred WCHSA resource parents have reached out to express their interactions and respect for Melissa with her previous work, how great it was working with Melissa in the past and how excited they are to be able to work with her again.

Melissa is very excited and really looking forward to this new challenge and working with all of our resource, relative and adoptive parents through the licensing process and beyond. Melissa has a lot of respect and appreciation for the foster care community and all that you do for the children and families within our community. She wants to ensure that you know she has an open door policy so reach out to her if needed. [mcoats@washoecounty.us](mailto:mcoats@washoecounty.us)



## Resources

### *RENO VOLLEYBALL CLUB*

The Reno Volleyball Club is willing to offer discounts to children and youth in WCHSA foster care who would like to play volleyball. For more information, visit their website or contact Cindy Lawrence at 775-313-4124 or [RenoVBC@aol.com](mailto:RenoVBC@aol.com).

### *SOCCKER SPROUTS*

The Reno Sportsdome is offering discounts to foster youth who have an interest in soccer! For more information contact Shannon at [sprouts@renodome.com](mailto:sprouts@renodome.com).

### *THE ADOPTION EXCHANGE*

Offers several webinar options on their website for families regarding adoption and foster care topics. View their main [Classes and Training](#) page as well as their [Upcoming Classes](#). In addition, they also have a free lending library. They offer a wide variety of books with topics ranging from; exposure, grief & trauma healing, mental illness, sexual abuse, special needs adoption, books for children and more. Visit their website above or call 1-800-451-5246 to learn how easy it is to borrow and return.

### *NEVADA EQUINE ASSISTED THERAPY (NEATS)*

If you're interested in learning more about NEATS and how their services can help you or a youth in your home visit their website or call Laurie at 750-9823.

### *HEAD START*

Has openings! The Community Services Agency (Head Start, State Pre-K and Early Head Start) would love to talk to you if you're interested in early education for your 0-3 or 3-5-year-old. Contact Megan Jack at (775) 786-6023 ext. 207 or [mjack@csareno.org](mailto:mjack@csareno.org).

### *BIGGEST LITTLE BABY*

Previously the Nurturing Nest, Biggest Little Baby is a birth and parenting community that offers a variety of free classes from pregnancy and childbirth to yoga. They also offer free weekly circles of support, toddler playgroups and breast-feeding circle to mention just a few.

### *A CHILD'S WORLD*

Offers a community support group for parents of children with attachment or trauma issues. Receive one hour of training credit per group attended. Groups are the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30p.m. (excluding December). **Please RSVP** to Sharon Willams at least 1 day in advance at 322-4650 or [Sharonacwoffice@att.net](mailto:Sharonacwoffice@att.net).

### *WANDA'S BABY CLOSET*

Have you ever heard of Casa de Vida? They're a great resource for our teen moms. What you may not be aware of is Wanda's Baby Closet who works in collaboration with Casa de Vida providing free baby clothes and supplies to our bio and foster parents. For information on how to access this amazing resource or to help your bio parent call (775) 329-3211.

### *KIWANIS CLUB*

Has great bikes and accessories available at discounted prices! Contact them at (775) 337-1717 or check out their website above.

### *FREE TUTORING!*

If your youth needs tutoring, please reach out to [Joseph](#) at Sierra Association of Foster Families (SAFF). As a reminder, SAFF can tutor students of all ages who are foster, adopted and/or have reunified.