

NEWSLETTER

RESOURCE/ RELATIVE/ FICTIVE KIN/ ADOPTIVE PARENTS

JUST A LITTLE
Reminder

“Encourage, lift and strengthen one another. For the positive energy spread to one will be felt by us all.”
-Deborah Day

If **ANY** household members exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild, **OR** if they have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person, **OR** if anyone in the household tests positive for COVID-19, that they must:

1. Contact the health department or their medical provider for guidance on testing
2. Immediately self-isolate the household until medically cleared
3. Notify the child(ren)’s caseworker(s) and the licensing worker within the same business day

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



Duties

- Be available to be assigned to resource parents and advocate as necessary
- Establish a personal, working relationship with resource parents
- Open communication and follow up
- Contact as requested/agreed upon
- Encourage and positively support resource parents
- Assisting resource parents with navigating the foster care system or needs, transitions, strategies on supporting placements, communication with WCHSA staff, visitation and co-parenting relationships

REQUIREMENT

- Current or previous resource parent with experience in caring for children and/or navigating the systems
- Open to co-parenting
- Flexibility for in-person visits, video chats, phone calls, text, or emails.
- Committed to a positive approach
- Maintain confidentiality

RESOURCE PARENT ADVOCATE PROGRAM

CREATED BY RESOURCE PARENTS FOR RESOURCE PARENTS

- Do you have experience, wisdom, time and a desire to mentor other resource parents with challenging issues?
- Are you a resource parent who is dealing with challenges such as child-specific, behavioral, need-specific, systemic, visitation etc. and you feel like you can use some support from someone who's, "Been there, done that"?

If either (or both) of these applies to you, your Resource Parent Advisory Board invites you to participate in this program. This program offers the opportunity to connect with your peers, support and encourage each other, learn from each other, and improve the quality of care that is collectively provided to the children in your homes.

For more information on how to become a Resource Parent Advocate, or to be matched with an Advocate who can help and support you, please contact Kylee Spring at 775-785-5680 or kspring@washoecounty.us.

Resource parent includes foster, adoptive, fictive kin, non-primaries and relative caregiver

Kylee Spring will be in contact within the same day or next day to confirm receiving your request.

For additional information please contact Kylee Spring

kspring@washoecounty.us CALL OR TEXT: 775.530.1646

BRIDGES out of POVERTY



Dates of training:

- **Saturday, September 19th** 10:00am-12
- **Monday, September 21st** 5:30-7:30pm

This is a mandatory training requirement for your license renewal.

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register.
MPolley@washoecounty.us

RESOURCE PARENT, RELATIVE, FICTIVE KIN & ADOPTIVE
Support Groups

WE ARE LOOKING TO ENHANCE OUR SUPPORT GROUPS

- **3 Angels Care** offers support group on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday** of every month **from 8:30-9:30pm**. Please contact Koula@3angelscare.org to RSVP.
- **Resource Parent Advisory Board** support group **September 22, 2020** at **noon**. Please contact kspring@washoeounty.us to RSVP
- **Zoom Training** Kylee will be conducting a how to Zoom training on **September 24** at **4pm**. Please contact kspring@washoeounty.us to RSVP.



We are working on getting an updated list and would love to get the word out to others. Please reach out with any other support groups that I have missed.



KEYWORD

Emergency Placement

Emergency placements is when a child is placed into your home after normal business hours and typically are only 14-day placements unless you would like to continue to be the long-term placement.

Emergency placements are typically immediate emergency removals. WCHSA caseworkers attempt to contact our resource families during these emergency times to take placement of the child(ren) with almost no notice and limited information. Reaching you during these emergency situations is critical to help reduce trauma for our foster youth. If you receive a phone call or text outside of normal business hours, including the middle of the night, we are graciously asking that answer the phone and consider opening your home to our kids in crisis. The caseworkers will leave messages so please keep an eye out and contact the caseworker back as soon as possible whether or not you are able to take placement of the child(ren). Additionally, when WCHSA's caseworkers are calling it could be multiple different numbers.

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!

Questions regarding Autism Spectrum

Disorder- The National Institute of Mental Health explains that Autism is known as a "spectrum" disorder because there is wide variation in the type and severity of symptoms people experience. ASD occurs in all ethnic, racial, and economic groups. Although ASD can be a lifelong disorder, treatments and services can improve a person's symptoms and ability to function. *0.5 hours*

Explaining Disruptive Mood Dysregulation

Disorder (DMDD)-The DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria for Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder includes terms such as temper outbursts, verbal rage, physical aggression toward people or property and those with this diagnosis are described as irritable or angry and can only be given to children between 6-18 years old. DMDD as it is referred was reportedly added to the DSM to decrease the number of children who are diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder. *0.5 hours*

Understanding Trauma Related Disorders-

Per the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, the impact of child traumatic stress can last well beyond childhood. In fact, research has shown that child trauma survivors may experience: learning problems, including lower grades and more suspensions and expulsions, an increased use of health and mental health services, increased involvement with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems and long-term health problems (e.g., diabetes and heart disease). Let's discuss how trauma is a risk factor for nearly all behavioral health and substance use disorders. *0.5 hours*

Identifying Anxiety Disorders in Child

Welfare-The National Institute of Mental Health lists the symptoms of a Generalized Anxiety Disorder as feeling restless, wound-up, or on-edge, being easily fatigued, having difficulty concentrating; being irritable and having sleep problems, such as difficulty falling or staying asleep, restlessness, or unsatisfying sleep and these issues usually impact a person's daily living activities. *0.5 hours*

Healthy Boundaries in Sexual and Intimate

Partner Relationships-This presentation introduces the importance of boundaries in intimate partner relationships and provides communication tools for talking to youth about asserting and accepting healthy boundaries. *0.5 hours*

A Discussion on Attention Deficit
Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in Child

Welfare-According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common neurodevelopmental disorders of childhood. It is usually first diagnosed in childhood and often lasts into adulthood. Children with ADHD may have trouble paying attention, controlling impulsive behaviors (may act without thinking about what the result will be), or be overly active. Dr. Kristopher Kaliebe, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist is available to discuss this diagnosis as well as answer specific questions related to the disorder. *0.5 hours*

Washoe Quality Parenting
Spotlight Award!

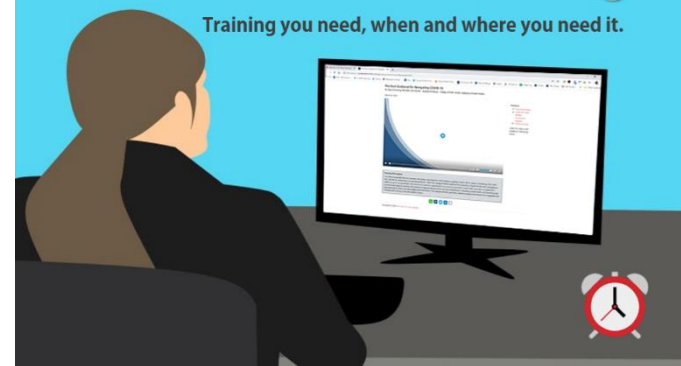
We want to celebrate all team members that touch the lives of children and family in our community and need your help to do so! As you have seen there has been videos going out to resource families and WCHSA staff shinning a spotlight on people who are nominated. These nominations can be resource parents,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

Just in Time Training

Training you need, when and where you need it.



Top Tips for Getting a Certificate

- No Fast Forward** - You will see a box beneath the video where the link to the quiz will be available. But if you fast forward anywhere in the video, the link will not be enabled.
- Avoid Cell Phone** - You can watch any of the videos on a cell phone. BUT, beware of viewing on a cell phone if you need a certificate. You may be more likely to close the screen or restart the video which will affect your ability to access the link to the quiz.
- 3 Tries And Locked** - You are only allowed 3 attempts to pass the quiz - even if you took the quiz months ago. If you are locked out, we will need to unlock your account before you can try again.
- Download Icon** - Upon passing the quiz, please download (or right click) your certificate before printing or emailing for credit.

We are here to help! We want you to have the best experience possible. If you need assistance (including unlocking your account) email center-support@qpiif.edu and provide us with your NAME, TITLE of the video or quiz, which STATE you reside in and the ISSUE you are having. We will respond within 24 hours Monday through Friday.

Interested in Adoption?

Taylor

12 years old

LOOKING FOR ADOPTIVE HOME

Taylor is described as a sweet, loving, kind and active boy who likes to help out. His case worker will tell you “he has a big heart that radiates through his smile.” Taylor plays football and has the awards to prove it. He has also participated in Ju-Jitsu and is getting ready to try his hand at boxing. Taylor would love a family who enjoys road trips to places such as Six Flags or Disneyland. He also enjoys camping and riding dirt bikes. Taylor dreams of having his own bedroom with pets and a kind, patient family who will support ongoing contact with his adult siblings.

If you'd like to learn more about Taylor please contact Tawnya Robertson at (775) 785-8659 or Trobertson@washoecounty.us



Trey, Jayden, & Milo

Trey 8, Jayden 6, Milo 3

LOOKING FOR ADOPTIVE HOME



These closely bonded, high energy little boys will have you laughing all day long. They love to make people happy, are sweet, silly, affectionate and love cars and all things super-heroes. Trey is a "pretty easy-going kid" with "an incredible imagination" who loves to make people happy. He is described as fearless, determined, adventuresome and not afraid to try new things. Although he is a pretty picky eater. Still, he loves pizza, burgers, pasta with red sauce and cereal and is working on expanding his pallet.

Jayden is very bright and articulate for his age. He is currently learning Spanish and his foster parents are impressed with the fact that he's doing so with no accent. He shows remarkable leadership skills and is very protective of his brothers. People will tell you that Jayden's smile lights up a room. He is a "big hugger", loves to be a helper and is a kind, loving, polite little boy with excellent manners and a little flirtation mixed in. Thanks to his foster parents Jayden has been exposed to a large variety of foods and loves to explore.

Milo is all boy and looks up to his older brothers. Like Jayden he is very bright and articulate for his age and is learning Spanish. However, unlike Jayden Milo is a very picky eater. He strives to be "a big boy" and loves to dress himself and be independent. Milo has an infectious laugh and his foster parent cautions that he uses his cuteness to his advantage and it's pretty easy to get sucked in.

If you'd like to learn more about more about this precious sibling group contact Tawnya Robertson at (775) 785-8659 or Trobertson@washoecounty.us

Devvan

14 years old

100% FREE FOR ADOPTION

Devvan loves playing his piano and being involved in dog shows and dog trainings. He is taking a Showmanship Clinic on Showing Dogs and continues to impress his teachers. He also enjoys spending time in his 4H programs and swimming. Devvan is very intelligent and does well in school. He loves to run and be active. He also loves trying new things, and has a wonderful sense of humor. Devvan says one of his favorite foods is pasta, but really loves all types of food! Devvan also shows artistic abilities.

If you interested in learning more about Ethan contact Mitch Matthews, LSW 775-785-8693 mmatthews@washoecounty.us



COVID Update:



**WASHOE COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

350 S. CENTER STREET
RENO, NEVADA 89520-0027
PHONE: (775) 785-8600
FAX: (775) 785-5640

September 4, 2020

Dear Foster Families,

The challenges that you have faced and the strain on all of you is unimaginable. We have worked diligently to find some ways to preserve funds in other areas to offer our sincere appreciation for the commitment that you have made to our agency and our children. You are all my heroes, and I know that we would not be able to continue down this very uncertain journey without all of you standing right beside us.

I want to provide additional funds, despite our financial situation, to give your families the opportunity to do something fun with the children, purchase toys, art supplies, something that can brighten a child's day or assist with the stress and burden that you all have faced and reward yourself for your hard work. You will see a one-time rate increase covering the month of August on your September foster care payment. I can't think of a better way to spend funds than to offer my sincerity for the partnership that you bring us.

I will continue to find ways to support you as best I can. Please know that you have been in my thoughts and I want to do whatever I can to help ease the worry when I am able to do so. Please let me know how I can help in other ways or share your ideas with me for the betterment of your home and your families. I am forever grateful. Thanks so much for being so compassionate and amazing!

Sincerely,

Amber Howell
Director

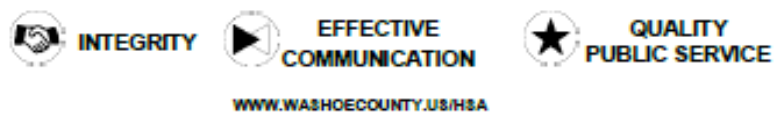
Please make sure you are checking your email as important information gets emailed. The letter to the right was emailed to you. Please contact Kylee Spring kspring@washoecounty.us if you are not receiving emails from the agency.



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!



Product Recalls

- Hasbro Recalls Super Soaker XP 20 and XP 30 Water Blasters Due to Violation of Federal Lead Content Ban; Sold Exclusively at Target
- Signature Hardware Recalls Medicine Cabinets Due to Injury Hazard
- Lithonia Lighting Recalls to Repair CFMK Surface Mount Brackets Used with CPANL LEDs Due to Impact Hazard
- Pier 1 Recalls Three-Wick Halloween Candles Due to Fire and Burn Hazards

Recalls can be viewed at www.cpsc.gov



Washoe County School District

UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Changing Schools

- Did you know that for every school change, foster youth lose an average of 6 months of education? Crazy right?!
- WCHSA has a specific process in place to approve school changes and we take this very seriously. It is our legal responsibility to do our due diligence to evaluate and determine the Best Interest of students to ensure educational stability for our foster youth. Federal and State law protect our little ones, so they don't have to change schools with every placement change.
- Please reach out to your worker for further information on this process if you feel a youth should change schools. WCHSA leadership legally MUST approve school changes.

Changing Mode of Instruction

- Youth changing from distance to in-person learning – the schools need between 3 days and 2 weeks to ensure the proper resources are in place to accommodate the student

Technology

- WCHSA is teaming up with WCSD to make sure all foster youth have a computer to complete their schoolwork. This only applies to youth who are attending school through full-time distance learning or on a hybrid schedule.
- “Digital Daze” due to smoke, etc. do not require kids to have a computer if they are attending school in person. Schools are providing instruction to families and take homework for these types of crazy days.

Distance Learning – Supportive facilities

- Boys & Girls Clubs – 3 locations – see attached flyer
- Discovery Museum – see attached flyer

Transportation

- If you have a question regarding a student's bus route, PLEASE reach out to your worker, rather than calling WCSD Dispatch for these types of questions.
- Don't forget that you can be reimbursed for mileage if a bus route was requested through your worker and “officially” denied. Your worker will initiate the contract with WCSD through Claire Potichkin.

Special Education Services

- A lot of IEPs are being revised this fall, due to delays created by COVID, etc. It is very important for foster parents and workers to participate in this process.
 - IEPs are also being revised due to change in “mode” of instruction. Service delivery is modified for Distance Learning, so please feel free to seek clarification from the school if no formal meeting was held for this type of revision.
 - New IEP evaluations: If the team feels that your youth should be evaluated for Special Education services, it is very important to meet with the school to address the students' needs and discuss the supports already in place, best next steps, etc. It's a team effort and the IEP team drives the process. IEP teams for the most part include the school psychologist, teacher, case manager, foster parent, social worker, WIN worker, CASA (if applicable), other school administration (principals or Aps often participate at the elementary level) and dependency attorney if they want to participate.
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Resources

- **[For WCSD Frequent Asked Questions \(school reopening, instruction & COVID\)](https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/15052)**
- **[Smart Busses and Hot Spots](https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/15896)**
- **[Boys and Girls Club](https://bgctm.org/virtual-club/)**
- **[Discovery Museum](https://nvdm.org/)**

SPOT TO SHARE

DEBBIE LANGLEY reached out and wanted to share a happy story with everyone.

A little background is my husband, Joseph Langley and I became the kids foster parents on March 2nd 2019 and adopted them on July 16th 2020. We were guided through the foster care then the adoption process with the awesome guidance from Tanya Robertson, Norm Enlow, our amazing case worker and Mary E. our adoption case manager. The kiddos are all siblings. Debbie is 13 yrs old, Tryhsten is 12, Javier 9, and Bryleigh 4. We recently moved to Virginia City Highland where our family has grown more with the addition of 2 horses, 2 ducks and 5 dogs. The children all love animals and it helps learning responsibilities and unconditional love.

Adopting the children was a true blessing, we are so fortunate to be able to provide them the stability and love they deserve. The kids' mother is a big part of all of our lives. The kids are happy and have adjusted well. Besides their animals their favorite pastimes are going to visit their Aunt Tonya and Uncle Marv, and playing Mine Craft on their computers. *Thank you so much Debbie for sharing! If you have a story that you would like to share please send them to me.*



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.